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THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2014

SPRING INTO EASTER

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road &
Market Street, BARRY - Feature starts Page 18

Time to take a closer look at...

Llantwit Major

Feature on Pages 24-25



Wedding transport bright idea will help Marie Curie

A COWBRIDGE businessman came up with a novel solution when 20 American guests arrived for his daughter's wedding - he bought a minibus.

Now that the nuptials are over, Robert James is so pleased at how things worked out that he has decided to sell the bus and donate the proceeds to Marie Curie in Penarth.

Robert's daughter, Becki, a former pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, met her partner Ed Clark, who is from New Jersey, at St Andrews

University and they were married on Saturday at Canada Lake and Lodge in Creigiau.

Robert told The GEM: "The bus was a huge success and proved invaluable in collecting the overseas guests from Heathrow Airport and running around the events leading up to the wedding, and at the wedding itself."

Mr James is group technical director at the BSW Group in Llandow, and the decision to sell the bus now, and donate the proceeds to Marie Curie, is because the charity is close to the family's heart.

Becki's mother,



Linda, died in 2011 from pancreatic cancer, and Marie Curie looked after

Linda in Penarth during her final weeks.

Becki and her husband have been living in Gloucester for two years, and will continue to do so. Becki is an environmental scientist, and her husband is a photographer.

Karen Jones, fundraising manager at the Marie Curie Hospice Cardiff and the Vale said: "We are so pleased that Robert has chosen to support

us by raising funds in this novel way and also glad that the wedding all went well.

"The money raised from this will go towards caring for patients and their families at the hospice. Whether someone comes in to stay, or visits us regularly while at home, we give them excellent care."

"Without the support from the community with great ideas such as this, it would not be possible," she added.

Cowbridge society's boost for Foodbank

COLLEAGUES and customers at the Yorkshire Building Society branch in Cowbridge have rallied to the Vale Foodbank.

They collected items including pasta, tinned food and biscuits which have been handed over to the Foodbank at Coastlands Church, Barry.

"Collecting items for the Foodbank is just one of the ways we're committed to supporting our local community," said Jon Tucker, manager of the Cowbridge branch of Yorkshire Building Society.

"We're absolutely delighted with the amount of food collected from colleagues, customers and members of the public and can't thank people enough for taking the time to drop off items they could spare."

The Vale Foodbank is open at Coastlands Church in Barry on Mondays from 2pm-3pm and Thursdays from 4.30pm-6.30pm; at Bethesda Chapel in Dinas Powys on Wednesdays (1.30pm-2.30pm) and at Bethel Baptist in Llantwit Major on Wednesdays (1pm-2pm).



See next week's GEM for a special report on local Foodbanks by CAROLINE SARLL

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A48 crash

South Wales Police are appealing for witnesses to a serious road traffic collision at approximately 4.49pm on Monday, April 14, on the A48 between Pentre Meyrick Cross and Bridgend.

The incident involved a blue coloured Yamaha YZF-R 125 motorcycle, which was travelling from the direction of Cowbridge towards Bridgend, when the male rider lost control, colliding with a silver coloured Ford Focus being driven from the opposite direction.

A police spokeswoman said that the motorcyclist was being treated in hospital with serious injuries.

The A48 was closed for more than two-and-a-half hours.

Anyone who witnessed seen either vehicle being driven prior to the collision, is asked to contact South Wales Police Serious Collision Investigation unit on 121.

Water problem

SOME Cowbridge homes were without water yesterday (Wednesday) after contractors working in Eastgate disturbed a main.

Supplies were cut off between noon and 2.30pm



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How family have been affected by First World War

MY father was one of 11 children born in Cowbridge, who all served in World War 1.

One served in the Royal Navy, eight served in the army, and two of my aunts served as army nurses in France. Three of my uncles were professionals with pre-war service and were recalled to serve.

My father was an engine driver who volunteered in December 1914, and served in the Royal Engineers. After training, he was posted to France. He took barbed wire to the front line and also drove a hospital train to pick up the wounded troops.

He told me that a coach was equipped as an operating theatre and, in an emergency, a bell that had been fitted to the cab of the engine would ring.

When this happened, my father would find a loop on the railway track to pull the train into, so that they could operate

on the emergency patient. The first of my father's siblings to die in the war was Benjamin, who was recalled to the Royal Navy and died in January 1916, aged 39.

The second to be killed was Sidney, who died when he was 25, and is buried at Boesinghe, Belgium.

He was killed by a shell in the trenches on June 24, 1917.

He was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and was the youngest of the 11 children.

My two aunts who had become nurses in the war – one served in Belgium and one in France – later made careers in nursing.

One became a matron of a home in Chester, and the other nursed a New Zealand soldier in 1918.

They married, and he was returned to New Zealand after the war.

She waited until 1919 before she could follow him, so I never had the chance to meet her.

Stanley Hayward (aged 87)

TREES HONOUR FALLEN HEROES

MAY I, through the pages of your newspaper, thank all the people of Barry who have donated their money or volunteered their time to our project to plant 700 native trees at the entrance of the town as a living memorial to the Barrians who never returned from the ravages of the First World War.

We still need around another 200 trees to reach our total ... that means we need to raise around £300 to pay for the saplings, their protective equipment and organic fertiliser.

I thank the Woodland Trust for donating 420 of the trees we have planted and Keep Wales Tidy for our liability insurance.

If anyone would like to donate to the project, please make cheques payable to White Farm Conservation Group, and post to 118

Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9TJ. Coun Rob Curtis, Barry (Co-ordinator White Farm Conservation Group).

Barry PACT meetings

BARUC PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel on April 24 at 6.30pm.

COURT PACT, The Scout Hall, Dyfan Road, Barry on May 15 at 7pm.

BUTTRILLS' PACT, The Barry Library, Kings Square, Barry on May 15 at 6.30pm.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'LYSWORNEY BY-PASS TO LLANDOW SETTLEMENT IS THE ONLY ANSWER' Darren Farm plan for 350 houses is 'out of scale'

LIKE many individuals and groups, Cowbridge History Society objected strongly to the proposals for more than 350 houses on the Darren Farm site in the LDP.

You report that there is now an amended proposal that would take the development to the very front door of Llanfrynach church.

The land owner, Mr John Homfray, seems to have missed the point entirely of our original objections.

He now says his developers wish to build the same number of houses but at a lower density, whereas what all object to is the sheer number of houses and the size of the development as being quite out of scale with the historic town of Cowbridge and its potential to service properly such a massive increase in population.

The Vale of Glamorgan's LDP was to be based on sustainability.

This society and others demonstrated in their submissions that this objective could not be met at this scale from current or likely future resources, pointing to considerable increases in car borne commuting, inadequate numbers of school places (despite the proposal to build a new primary school – itself unsustainable, since children would have to be brought by car or taken to the comprehensive school), a local health service that could not cope with additional patients and pressure on other public services.

Perhaps Mr Homfray thinks that the private sector will, over the course of time, bring lots of new jobs to Cowbridge to reduce commuting, and that the hard pressed public sector will be able to increase its services to satisfy the considerable increase in demand.

Among the reasons his original planning application for houses on this site some years ago was

rejected by the Inspector were their intrusion in an area of high landscape value, the loss of valuable agricultural land and with it the loss of the livelihood of the tenant farmer, and the inadequacy of the link road once it merged with the Llantwit road, which the inspector declared to be too narrow to take the traffic likely to be generated.

Mr Homfray's claim that his new proposal will improve infrastructure for Cowbridge is nonsense; it can only increase the traffic flow through Cowbridge's historic High Street.

The building of the bypass to the north of the town in the mid 1960s saved historic Cowbridge from an endless decline and destruction of its historic buildings. Now only the building of a Llysworney by-pass linked to a new settlement at Llandow will do that.

R J Buswell, Chair, Cowbridge History Society.

'Peaceful ambience will be destroyed by extended plan'

THE GEM has done the community a service in so prominently displaying on its front page the proposed development on Darren Farm.

This proposal will ruin the western side of Cowbridge, and with its extra 940 residents, totally overload the services, roads and other facilities within the town, which will far outweigh any access advantages. It is also based on contentious population statistics for The Vale.

The original plan was already a gross intrusion into the countryside, and the logic of smearing the stain of the development still further in the hope that it will be less noticeable, is somewhat difficult to understand.

Hopefully, the residents of Cowbridge will, having seen the extended proposal, appreciate better what is proposed for their town, and object.

The extended plan offers a real threat to the status and ambience of the church at Llanfrynach, which is an oasis of peace, and where services have a degree of spirituality and disconnection with the material world that is experienced almost nowhere else.

The extended site puts the church only 160m from the proposed busy link road with heavy goods traffic, destroying for ever the peaceful ambience of this historic church which is valued highly by many Cowbridge residents as a treasured amenity.

It is sad that the proposers do not recognise this. There will now be a narrower green strip backing onto the church behind the

houses, and one wonders what it will be used for, how it will be maintained, and when it will also be built on.

At least the original plan had 250m of cultivated fields separating Llanfrynach Lane from the link road and houses.

It has been patronisingly suggested that the farmers who have occupied Darren Farm for generations might emigrate to Barbados, and elsewhere the letter from Mr Stewart suggests a lack of awareness.

St Brynach's is one of several churches in the benefice, there is no need for another with suburban access. For those couples, and the congregations who may appreciate the ambience of Llanfrynach, the church is available, and its individual character should be protected, not destroyed.

DB Webb, Llanblethian

'Use Llandow site for new houses'

AS a frequent visitor to Cowbridge, I have always been struck by the historic nature of the town set in beautiful, unspoilt countryside.

I read recently with horror that a local landowner has proposed that Darren Farm now be almost completely built on. Looking at the proposal on a map, it would seem that this would increase the size of Cowbridge dramatically and destroy the magnificent

vistas to the west of the town.

Surely local residents should support the alternative site proposed at Llandow, which would seem to have many obvious points in its favour.

Any new development there would be partly on a brown field site, which I had believed to be the Government's preference over using a green field site. There is already a railway there which would help keep traffic off the roads, and the two nearby industrial estates would provide some employment within walking distance.

In addition, housing there would undoubtedly be less expensive for youngsters, as the site would be slightly outside Cowbridge itself and Llysworney would probably get its bypass.

A simple way for those wishing to add their support to Llandow as an alternative site is to voice their opinion by emailing the council at ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk quoting the Llandow reference ASN7 before the May 1 deadline. **Nicolas Doherty, Dinas Powys.**

'Talking down Welsh NHS'

HOW sad that our MP Alun Cairns seeks to talk down Wales perpetually from Westminster, lobbing a pre-agreed patsy question on the NHS to David Cameron at PMQs last Wednesday.

Wales has a vastly different health demographic to England and figures, if they even exist, can always be found to paint the Welsh NHS in a bad light.

The Welsh Assembly has recognised that some waiting lists need action and have contracted out some operations to English hospitals.

This, whilst admittedly inconvenient for patients, does show that Mark Drakeford AM and his colleagues take this matter seriously.

In Wales, we do not take any lessons from a Tory party that brought in expensive top-down re-organisation and seeks to part-privatise the service, to reward their friends in the City.

Peter Holly, Rhooose.

Remember Irving Davies

IHAVE read with interest recent articles in the GEM about Irving Davies, dance choreographer.

We lived next door to the Davies family for years when Irving and I were children in Woodlands Road.

Before television, children arranged their own amusements and my father, Bill Stonehewer, would put curtains up in the sitting room for Irving and me to play concerts with his mother, a lovely singer and pianist, providing the music.

Irving achieved so much in his life, but never forgot his Barry friends, and always enjoyed walking around The Knap and Porthkerry when time permitted.

May I suggest that a seat on the pebbles at The Knap opposite the car park in memory of Irving would be a better tribute than a wall plaque? **Audrey M Spanoudakis, Barry.**

Breaking the code on roundabouts

HAS anyone noticed the plethora of distracting advertising signs appearing on roundabouts?

Many have 11 digit mobile phone numbers and much worded text stating various claims or asking questions.

The Highway Code states that roundabouts can be hazardous and should be approached with care.

If it is an offence to drive without due care and attention or use a

mobile phone while driving, how can it be lawful to encourage distraction at a point where many vehicles are approaching each other, and full attention is needed in order to avoid accidents?

Surely there is enough to cope with regarding lane discipline, directional signs, road markings and traffic lights, without adding extra risk.

Am I alone in feeling that that safety is being compromised for financial gain? **Steve George**

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL APRIL 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
17 Thur	08.32	9.8	20.51	10.0
18 Fri	09.11	9.7	21.31	9.7
19 Sat	09.53	9.6	22.12	9.4
20 Sun	10.34	9.2	22.57	9.1
21 Mon	11.22	8.7	23.51	8.5
22 Tues			12.22	8.3
23 Wed	00.57	8.2	13.43	7.9
24 Thur	02.18	8.1	15.02	8.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Donkeys lead the way in Palm Sunday procession through town High Street

A BRIGHT red flag caught everyone's attention at this year's Palm Sunday procession down Cowbridge High Street, organised by Churches Together in Cowbridge and District.

Led down the street by two donkeys from Amelia Trust Farm, parishioners from the United Free Church, Holy Cross Benefice and St Cadoc's RC church, joined together to celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem.

Although we couldn't manage masses of waving palm fronds, the three wonderful trumpet players must surely have equalled the sound of the joyous and excited crowds accompanying Christ, seated on a donkey, riding into the city all those years ago.

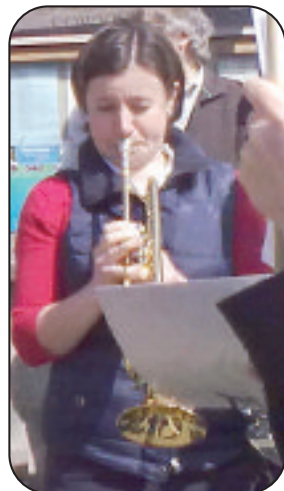
Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, with Good Friday and Easter Sunday, concluding the most important week in the Christian calendar. RS



ABOVE: Charlotte Leeke, Michael Hain and Dr Richard Hain accompany the singing.



ABOVE: Rev Heather Weddell of the UFC, Canon Derek Belcher of the Benefice, and Father George Areekuzhy of St Cadoc's, prepare to give a final blessing.



New man at helm of Cowbridge 41 Club.



The AGM of the Vale of Glamorgan 41 club was held at a meeting this week in the Red Fox in Penllyn.

James McKibbin (with chain of office, front row second right, was installed as chairman for 2014-2015.

PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK.



Officers elected

THE March meeting of the Senior Citizens group began with a short AGM and all current officers were re-elected.

They are: chairman, Mavis Ashford (also acting secretary); treasurer, Patricia Prothero; and committee members, Eleanor Watkins and Iris Short.

At the meeting on March 20, the speaker was David Salter whose topic was 'The History of Postcards', which he called 'What the Postman Saw!'

It included a brief history through the ages. The first postcards sent on September 16, 1894, were introduced as a cheaper means of contacting friends.

Residents vow to fight Colwinston housing proposal

VILLAGERS in Colwinston travelled to the Vale Council offices in Barry to hand in a petition opposing a planned housing development in the village.

Local resident David Fernie told THE GEM: "The villagers of Colwinston are strongly opposed to an application by Redrow to build 62 houses on land currently used for

agricultural purposes. "The village, which currently has circa 155 dwellings will be swamped by such a development".

A petition signed by 197 residents objecting to the application on a number of grounds was delivered to the Vale Council Planning Department on Tuesday, April 15.

The picture (above) shows a group of concerned villagers holding the petition by the entrance to the proposed site, which is adjacent to the local primary school.

email your local news and views to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Ensemble's concert date

COED Concert Piano Trio in D minor – superbly played by Susan Artspace on Sunday, April 6, when Bird at the piano, Roger Huckle (violin) and Robyn Austin (cello).

Afterwards, tea and home-made Fantasiestucke, and cakes from the WI Market were served.

Memories of 'Dirty John'

AS an ex-bin man, I was intrigued by what the speaker, David Bray, would say at the Cowbridge U3A meeting on April 9 and I was glad to find that it was not about technology, but personalities.

Many were mentioned, but here were a few: At the landfill site on Ferry Road lived 'Dirty John' in a shack. He got his clothes and sustenance from what we throw away. Because he never washed, he got a free pass in Caroline Street. Anyone who is familiar with the experience after an international match will know what I mean.

He died at the CRI after shaking hands with the local padre – as one of the men said: "Don't shake hands with me!"

Then there was 'Trevor', who took back anything that 'might come in handy', so off-cuts of carpet covered the floor, end bits of wallpaper the walls and a distraught wife presided over the arrival of their son from America with his new bride.

Finally, 'Charlie' would sweep outside City Hall, change and then shake Henry Kissenger's hand. How about that?

The next meeting is on May 14 at 2pm at the Town Hall. The topic is 'Wild life on the Thaw' by Rob Parry. TB

Planting seeds to make the village bloom!

YSTRADOWEN WI NEWS

AT Ystradowen WI's April meeting, members heard a talk by Sheila Jewell on 'Spring Gardens'.

Sheila was, at one time, a member of our WI and it was good to have her with us again. She explained how to get the best from hardy annuals by sowing seeds directly into the prepared ground. The 'before and after' photos of her seed efforts in her garden were amazing. She also told how to split old perennial plants, which can be really tough.

Then came the raffle draw and everyone at the meeting received a perennial plant to take home.

Pam Robins gave a vote of thanks.

Our late 2013 'Christmas lunch' at the Bear Hotel in March was discussed. Members were asked to add their names for the trip to

Cheltenham in August.

We received a letter from Dr Robert John, our speaker at the previous meeting, about 'Shelter Boxes', thanking us for our interest in his charity.

Members were also reminded that it will be 'all change' for the committee and president at the annual meeting in May.

Rose and mavis told us that by taking part in Waitrose's 'green coin' community help scheme, we were awarded the amazing sum of £270 for the garden fund.

We hope we can make our village even more beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

The work goes on in the village gardens and we have a 'get together' every first Saturday in the month to do weeding, maybe some planting and general tidying up. Extra help welcome. Just turn up at 10am at the 'lay-by'.

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DON'T PANIC...IT'S ONLY ALADDIN (AND A FEW FRIENDS) IN ABERTHIN PANTO!

TWO sold-out shows at Aberthin Village Hall were testament to the enduring appeal of a pantomime to entertain old and young alike.

Aberthin Players' most recent outing skilfully blended the plot of *Aladdin* with the characters from *Dad's Army*, with hilarious and occasionally shocking results.

The narrative from writer and director Glesni Jones had obviously kept scene painter Gary Rees busy as the action sped from Baghdad to Peking to Egypt and back, and from Palace gardens, via Widow Twankey's laundry and boulder-blocked caves, to the final chaotic confrontation with wicked lamp-stealing Abanazar under the palms of the Pyramids.

The director's pre-performance

instruction that – "at least some of the lines should be remembered" was strictly adhered to by a cast that always emphasises the 'amateur' rather than the 'dramatic' when it comes to a comic performance.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the electronic wizardry of Frank Hartles kept the music, lighting and sound effects in perfect harmony with the activity on stage.

Thanks to the cast (too numerous to name), and to the backstage helpers who, together, gave their time and energy to this bi-annual production which is in the best traditions of the pantomime, with villagers dressing up to entertain other villagers and friends.

"It's behind you!" shouted the audience.... Well, it is now.

HUW LLOYD



ABOVE:
The cast of
Aladdin
assembled on
stage for a
photo shoot.



The life and times of a liberated woman (part 5) by Nancy Davidge

IN November, 1941, I met a dashing serving in the Royal Artillery. I already knew his parents and his other brothers, as his sister-in-law was my close friend, and I had often been a visitor to their home.

At my friend's insistence, I agreed to meet the elusive brother-in-law. As I was on duty and in my working dungarees, I thought this would put him off but after the introductions, he walked me to the bus stop in Kingsway, asking if he could take me to the cinema the next day.

I agreed but, of course, when we met I looked a very different Nancy – all dressed up! He had to return to his unit the next day and said he would like to see me again.

We became engaged in December and planned to marry the following August, but our plans were dashed when he said he would be going abroad and asked could we get married?

With the help of family and friends, we pooled our resources so I had enough coupons for a lovely wedding dress. The eight bridesmaids bought their own dresses, and the two flower girls – and so we were married on March 21, 1942 at St Catherine's Church in Canton.

We travelled to Chepstow on the Sunday for a two-and-a-half day honeymoon as my new husband had to return to his unit in Tonbridge, Kent.

I did not know that it would be three-and-a-half years before I would see him again. He was sent to India and Burma and on his return, suffered attacks of malaria and became very ill with pneumonia.

We eventually decided to leave Cardiff and moved to London, where work was available at the repair workshops for railway engines at Stratford.

For a while, we lived in rented accommodation, some of which was well over-priced, but we did eventually managed to buy our own house for £1,200. It had four bedrooms, three rooms plus kitchen, a large garden, a garage and large conservatory which we added later.

The mortgage was £12.8s.8d a month on a £1,000 loan. The same houses, when we checked on a visit to our old home, are now £300,000 and rising!

Our daughter was born on April 10, 1951 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Hammersmith.

I have always taken an interest in politics and on several occasions, attempted to lobby my MP at the House of Commons. Sometimes I have been successful, other times the MP I wished to discuss the problem with would not have the courage to confront me.

Since my teens, I have had a Socialist outlook and this was enhanced when I listened to a speech by George Thomas at an open air meeting in the Riverside area of Cardiff.

I have met a few leading politicians through the various organisations to which I have belonged. I remember on one occasion, I was invited to a meeting where people who had survived the atom bomb at Nagasaki would be there. I felt a surge of anger for these people, but when I saw the terrible disfigurement to their faces, I could not but feel utter sympathy for them.

Next week, my dream comes true.



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The Vale Scouts go wacky at the races!

BEAVERS, Cubs and Scouts, from the Vale district gathered at the Sports Hall of St Richard Gwyn School in Barry for their annual 'Wacky Races' competition.

The 'go-carts' run on the Scouts' own power, with each team consisting of a driver and two pushers. Everyone took part with great enthusiasm, with teams racing around the laps.

Teams from the 1st Cowbridge, 1st Llantwit Major, 1st St Athan and 1st St Brides Major Scout Groups took part in three classes or racing.

The 'Le Man's Races' (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) involved

racing for five minutes, changing the team members at pit-stops, with the winners achieving the most laps. The 'Grand Prix' Races involved the best team from each Group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts).

Finally, a series of relay races for Beaver, Cubs, Scouts and combined group teams completed the formal programme.

The Vale District Scouts are extremely grateful to a number of local businesses who sponsored a brand new set of perpetual trophies; CS Boxall, Cats Eyes Driving School, OBI Camping and Leisure, Arthur John and Co, and the Barley Mow at Penlyne.

The trophies were presented with due ceremony, with Cowbridge and St Athan sharing the spoils of victory.

MB



COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE

"Tynewydd", Llangan.

(01656) 860303

TREOES, LLANGAN

& ST MARY HILL

Church services

AS in previous years, a dawn service will take place at 6.30am in St Mary Hill Church on Easter Sunday, April 20, when breakfast will once again be served – everyone welcome.

The next service at St Canna's will be a family service at 11.15am on April 27.

Saron Chapel

OTHE Palm Sunday service which took place at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday, April 13 was well-attended by local residents and some from further afield.

It was rather unusual but entertaining with the officiating minister Reverend David Couldrick accompanying the congregation on guitar.

A ballot box was available for anyone wishing to vote on whether same sex marriages should be performed in chapels.

Warning!

NOTICES have appeared on field gates on the two roads leading west out of Llangan village, warning that any person leading animals in fields with notices attached to the gates, will be dealt with by the appropriate authority.

Out & about!

Alpha course

ON April 29 at 7pm, Vale Church, Cowbridge will be running an Alpha course at Costa Coffee.

Alpha is a free eight-week course that gives people the chance to ask the questions that matter most: Why are we here? What's life all about? Is there a God?

The Alpha course provides an opportunity to discuss these questions in a relaxed, non-religious environment.

For information, contact Neil Harvey on 07870168154.

Gardening club meets

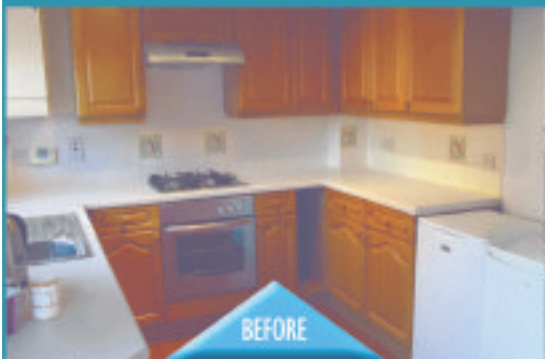
THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be the AGM and social evening at the Lesser Town Hall, Cowbridge, at 7.30pm on April 24.

Y Bont car boot

Y BONT, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, is holding a car boot sale and spring clean on Saturday, April 26 from 11am-2pm.

Adult and children's clothes, fancy dress, toys, books, bric-a-brac, refreshments, cake stall and a 'donation station' to drop off unwanted item for recycling. Entry cars £5, vans £8.

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Magnificent seven new canons at Llandaff Cathedral

SEVEN new Canons were installed at a special service in Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, led by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan.

Welsh writer Rev Gwynn ap Gwilym, was made a Metropolitan Canon, in recognition of his work across Wales.

The language officer and bishops' adviser for church affairs for the Church in Wales, is a chaired bard, published poet and novelist. He has written extensively on Welsh literature, as well as having translated modern liturgy for the church.

Rev Aled Edwards, chief executive of Cytun (Churches Together in Wales) was also made a Metropolitan Canon.

Mr Edwards, who is originally from Trawsfynydd, is Chair of Displaced People in Action, one of Wales's most active asylum and refugee organisations, and is a member of the Wales Committee of the Equalities and

Human Rights Commission.

Rev Edwin Counsell and Rev Bob Capper were made Honorary Canons. Rev Counsell has been the provincial advisor on education since 2006 and the Llandaff Diocese director of statutory education since 2000.

He is vicar of Pendoylan with Welsh St Donats.

Mr Capper is vicar of Gabalfa, priest-in-charge of Tremorfa and also area Dean for Cardiff.

Rev Mark Preece, Rector of Canton; Rev Stewart Lisk, Vicar of Roath and Rev Ruth Moverley, Vicar of Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch were appointed as Canons to Llandaff Cathedral.

In addition the Canon at Llandaff Graham Holcombe, was made a Canon Residentiary.

Mrs Harriet Morgan was also welcomed as the new Diocesan Registrar for the Llandaff Diocese at the service on Saturday, April 12.



Left to right: Rev Canon Bob Capper, Canon Aled Edwards, Canon Graham Halcombe, Harriet Morgan (Diocesan Registrar), Graham Hardy (Archbishop's verger), the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan; the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne; Canon Mark Preece, Canon Stewart Lisk, Canon Ruth Moverley, Canon Edwin Counsell, Canon Gwynn ap Gwilym and Dean of Llandaff, Gerwyn Capon.

Tories back calls for out of hours GP care review

CONSERVATIVES expressed 'concerns' over a statement by the local Community Health Council (CHC) describing out of hours GP service in the Vale as "diabological".

Local MP Alun Cairns said he understood that after 1pm there is only one GP and one nurse based at the UHW site available to cover the population of Cardiff and the Vale. Originally, the cover was provided by two GPs in the Vale and two in Cardiff with one GP 'out on the road' in each area.

The MP is to meet with the Head of the CHC following a meeting with the Local Health Board about

Barry Hospital on out of hours care.

He stated: "I have been concerned for some while that residents to the west of Cowbridge and as far south as Llantwit Major, are particularly at risk as all of the out of hours care is based in Barry and Cardiff.

"The administrative boundary is the Ogmere River meaning that residents in Ogmere by Sea have to travel to Barry - this is an administrative burden to suit bureaucracy. I have long called for the western Vale to be serviced through the Princess of Wales Hospital.

"I receive many complaints regarding the out of hours care in the Vale of Glamorgan. This comment by the CHC, the patient watchdog, has

echoed many feelings that the system should be overhauled. I want service commissioners to address this as a matter of urgency.

"I fear we are experiencing the impact of cuts to the health budget here in Wales. The Welsh Government is the only administration to cut health spend."

His views were echoed by Welsh Conservative leader Andrew RT Davies AM.

"Criticism of Carwyn Jones and Welsh Labour's handling of the NHS gets no worse than this. It is clear there are inherent problems that must be fully investigated and I urge the Labour Minister to make a full and urgent statement," the regional AM added.

Resort's donation of 169 Easter eggs will help cheer up sick children

WO Welsh children's charities are getting eggs-cited about receiving a donation of 169 Easter eggs that have been collected by staff and members of the Vale Resort health club.

Staff will deliver the chocolate eggs to the Tŷ Hafan hospice in Sully and children's cancer charity, LATCH, who are based at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff, this week in readiness for children to enjoy this weekend.

Health club members were invited to buy an eggs-tra egg to donate to the charities and deliver it to the club's reception. The reception team had begun to create an Easter display out of the donated goodies but soon ran out of room as deliveries flooded in. A total of 169 eggs were collected in just three weeks.

Joanna Church, leisure operations manager at the Vale Resort, said: "Supporting local charities is

something we all feel very strongly about at the Vale Resort, and it's great that the members have got behind us so we can spread a little Easter cheer to these two fantastic causes.

"Our members have been incredibly generous, with some individuals even bringing in eggs by the carrier bag full! We have worked with Tŷ Hafan before to run some rewarding events at the resort, including charity golf days and 'It's a Knockout'.

"As the donations started to pile up, we decided to split the Easter eggs donated between Tŷ Hafan and another local charity, Latch, who provide children diagnosed with cancer and their families with much-needed support.

"Both these charities do amazing work in south Wales and we are proud to be able to support them. I'd like to say a huge thank you to our health club members and our staff for the generosity of their donations, and wish them a very happy Easter."

Vale Bridge results

RESULTS for The Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Monday 14th April were as follows:

1st - Alan Lewis and Terry Evans 59.85 per cent; 2nd equal - Alan and Elaine Robbins 59.09; and Luba Ashworth and Joan Bird 59.09.

Members please note, there will be no bridge on Monday, April 21 - Bank holiday Monday.

Marriage course aims to improve relationships

A course is starting in Cowbridge for married couples and those in long term relationships - with the aim of strengthening and improving relationships in a practical and fun way.

The course will be hosted by Mark and Jan Whitehead, who are both experienced in running marriage preparation and marriage enrichment sessions. This venture is supported by Refresh, a local group.

Mark said: "The course is spread over seven evenings and it is designed for couples to enjoy finding out new things about each other in a relaxed atmosphere. "There's no group work, no

sharing with other couples, all the discussions are between you and your partner.

"The evenings start with a meal with every couple on their own table, so it's effectively like going on a date."

Topics covered on the course include: building strong foundations, the art of communication, and resolving conflicts.

Mark explained: "It is for anyone who values their marriage or long term relationship and wants it to be the best it can be.

"We service our cars, have health check-ups and do regular maintenance on our houses to keep all those things in top condition.

"The marriage course aims to

do the same for relationships, effectively making a good marriage even better."

The course, while based on Christian principles, is helpful for any couple with or without a Christian faith. Couples of all faiths and none are welcome.

It starts on May 2 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge. Places must be booked by April 28. Each couple is invited to contribute a total of £50 towards the cost of venue hire, food etc. The course is subsidised and facilitated by Refresh.

See the website www.be-refreshed.com or telephone Mark or Jan Whitehead on 01446 776446 for more details.

SUE FREELAND

Macmillan mobile unit

THIRTY-FOUR people visited Macmillan Cancer Support's mobile service during its recent stop in Barry's Kings Square.

Visitors received free, confidential information and support relating to cancer from the service.

Susan Morris, general manager for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, said: "We would like to thank everyone who visited our mobile service during its stop in Barry. The response from people was really positive - some visitors just wanted a chat, or to pick up some information leaflets and some had more complex medical or financial questions."

More than 4,700 people in the Vale

are living with or beyond cancer. If you have questions about cancer, call Macmillan (free) on 0808 808 00 00 or log on to www.macmillan.org.uk

To find out more about how you can help the charity, call 0300 1000 200 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising.

EASTER FUN ON ISLAND

BARRY Tourist Railway's Easter weekend sees vintage trains running and Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway Station will be open on Easter Sunday, along with craft stalls.

Full details on the website at www.barrytouristrailway.co.uk.

Point-to-point back at Pyle

A BIG crowd is expected at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point on Saturday, which is being held for the second time at the Dunraven Stud at Pyle, near Bridgend.

Mr David Brace, who

owns and manages the stud, recently sent out his ninth winner of the season and it will come as a surprise if he fails to saddle a winner or two this Easter weekend.

There are 12 down to run in the members' race and Jeff Bird's *Repeat Business*, which beat David Brace's *Bob The Butcher* by 20 lengths at the Monmouthshire, has *Midnight Diamond* and *Son Of Swallow* to beat.

In the novice riders' race, for which there are nine entries, *Cock Of The Rock* and *Silver Token* catch the eye, while of the 13 down to run in the confined *Arkendale*, *BringInTheBranston* and *Anger Management* look best.

There are 11entries for the men's open and these include *Midnight Diamond*, *Silver Token* and *Cock Of The Rock*, so whichever one Mr Brace decides to run is the one to be on.

There are 12 entries for the ladies' open race, but I expect the ex-Evan Williams trained *Lauberhorn* to frighten most of them away. Watch *The Birdie* and *Lion On The Prowl* appear to be the only dangers to *Lauberhorn* making it a four-timer under the talented Anna Metekohy.

The ones to watch in the maiden races are *Danny Mags* and *Nisham*.

Pony racing will take place after the last race.

First race 2pm. Dunraven Stud near A48, one mile from junction 37 M4, three miles from junction 38.

BRIAN LEE

Toys and trains

CARDIFF Toy & Train sale will be held on Saturday, April 19 at 10.30am-3pm in Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan.

There are over 100 tables with more than 40 traders from all over Britain.

Telephone 01643 702757/ 07966 694579; website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

Peak power walk for cancer charity

FOUR employees at Aberthaw Power Station have successfully completed a challenging walk across three summits of the Black Mountains - to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The challenge, on March 29, saw them walk 20 miles in 10 hours.

The infamous Three Peaks Trial crosses over the peaks of Blorengre (561m), Sugar Loaf (596m) and Skirrid Ysgyrryd Fawr (486m), around Abergavenny in Monmouthshire.

The teams had to reach the summits of all three peaks in one day.

Amy Sherborne from Aberthaw Power Station, who led the team said: "We raised £430 for Macmillan Cancer support and received a lovely gold certificate, this certainly makes up for

the sore legs, blisters and bruised toes.

"We would like to give a huge thanks to the organisers and volunteers - many of whom spent a long day on the peaks - the Cardiff Outdoor Group and Longtown Mountain Rescue Team."

The challenge is part of npower's '10 for 10' campaign, which involves staff completing ten challenges throughout 2014 to mark the tenth anniversary of the company's partnership with Macmillan and raise £150,000 for the cancer charity's work.

Throughout '10 for 10', npower pledge to match every pound raised so this will see the current amount doubled to over £860.

If you, or someone you know, has been affected by cancer and would like details on the Fuel Management Programme, call the Macmillan Support Line on 0808 808 0000.

WELDER FALSELY CLAIMED £28,000 Pyle man escapes jail after benefit fraud

A FRAUDSTER who dishonestly obtained benefits of nearly £28,000, has been jailed for six months, the sentence suspended for one year, and fined £10,000 at Cardiff Crown Court.

Robert Davies, 64, an unemployed welder of Fford-y-Mynach, Pyle, admitted charges of fraud by false representation and failing to disclose information.

Prosecutor Lowri Wyn Morgan said he had made a claim to the department of Work and Pensions for pension credit and also received council tax benefit; in addition, he failed to inform the department and the local authority of his total savings. It was

by AJ SICLUNA

believed he had savings of £5,500.

He failed to inform them that at the time, he had savings of £140,720 held in bank accounts, shares and ISAs.

Had the authorities been aware of this, the benefits would not have been paid, said Miss Wynn Morgan.

He was interviewed in January and admitted he had not declared the savings.

Over three years, she said, he dishonestly received £27,838.

The court heard that he had repaid the money.

His counsel, Kevin Seal, said "It's accepted it was fraud over a significant period."

He said Davies had no previous

convictions and it was sad to see such a man appear before a Crown Court.

"He is the backbone of his local rugby club and this case has brought deep shame upon him."

The year 2010, said Mr Seal, was a tragic one for Davies, when he was made redundant, a parent died, and his partner had a severe stroke.

"His concern is not so much for himself, but for his partner. He knows he has to be punished and has not tried to lay the blame on anyone but himself."

Said Judge Patrick Curran, "These offences are easy to commit and difficult to detect.

Every penny obtained is a burden the taxpayer has to bear. The court is required to deal severely with any such case."

Charity concert for CAFOD – with curry!

STUDENTS from St Richard Gwyn High School in Barry and St Illtyd's High School in Cardiff have raised over £1,200 through a concert and curry fundraiser to help those in the Philippines affected by the recent typhoon.

Students at St Richard Gwyn, who help as chaplain assistants in the school, organised an evening of entertainment to raise money for the Catholic charity CAFOD (Catholic agency for overseas development).

The concert was also joined by students from St Illtyd's High School.

A range of fantastic musical performances was followed by delicious curry prepared by school staff.

There was music from around the world, including African drumming, Gamelan from Bali and Kitar from India. There were also choral

performances, solo singing and music from St Richard Gwyn's very own rock band to round off the night.

St Richard Gwyn student Elinor (14) who helped to arrange the concert, said: "We organised the event to raise money for those people suffering in the Philippines because they need help and the money we raise will go to a really worthwhile cause."

Parents, friends and staff from both schools came along to support the students on the evening and were treated to a fantastic evening's entertainment.

In addition to the music, there was an auction of promises and a raffle. The auction included an hour of gardening from one of the pupils, a car wash by two of the younger boys, and donated items such as colourful saris and a free spray tan.

The auction alone raised £200 for CAFOD's Philippines appeal.

Sully U3A is guided through a legal minefield

THE Sully U3A's guest speaker at the April meeting was Julia Barrell, Mental Capacity Act Manager for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

The Act came into being in 2005 and Julia guided members through the complicated processes required to make an advance decision to refuse treatment and lasting powers of attorney.

MUST BE VALID

She explained that an advance decision has to be valid and applicable to the situation.

Lasting powers of attorney allow someone a person chooses, to make decisions for them should they become incapacitated. Julia's talk gave members a lot to think about and because there were so many questions, she stayed to chat over a cup of tea.

Chairman, Gill Mathias, thanked Julia for such a clear explanation of the issues involved.

Sully U3A meets at 2pm on the second Thursday of the month in the Old School, Sully when new members are welcome.

On May 8 the speaker will be David Powell, who will be speaking on astronomy.

LIFE-SAVING GIFT FROM BARRY ROTARY CLUB

FOLLOWING a very interesting talk by Brian Foley from the Vale's first responder team, the Barry Rotary Club took on the job of providing four defibrillator units for the town.

Brian explained: "Sudden cardiac arrest requires immediate treatment with a defibrillator. The electric shock can restore a normal rhythm to a heart. Every minute is critical, so having locally available units instead of waiting for an ambulance can be the difference between life and death".

The four units, provided in conjunction with Welsh Hearts, are being placed around town in places that are convenient for access, and someone dialling 999 would be immediately directed to the nearest place having one.

The first defibrillator was handed over to Steve Case, owner of Habana's



ABOVE: Barry Rotary Club president Peter Battle with Brian Foley handing over the 'High Street' defibrillator to Steve Case, owner of Habana's.

Bar and Grill, on Barry High Street which is open every day and evening and where staff and local traders have been given awareness training... although the units "talk" when opened, giving instructions for their use, and can therefore be used by anyone.

Steve said: "We are very happy to be able to support the community by making the unit widely recognized, and we at Barry Rotary felt it very important to see they are provided in town in easily accessible places. I would like to thank Steve for so readily agreeing to have the first one at Habana's where it can be available to anyone near Barry High Street".

Rotary Club president Peter Battle said: "The vital role that these units can play in preventing unnecessary death is

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Amelia Trust guests are welcomed at Bonvilston

THE sun shone at St Cadoc's Church on Palm Sunday, with special visitors from the Amelia Trust, Bonvilston.

Arthur and Merlin are seen above being held by Rev Dr Mark Diamond,

and Anneli. Also in the picture are Alice Davies and Mae Thomas, both from the village.

The service took place mostly outside in the sunshine, before walking the donkeys around the perimeter of the church.

Council tax help for elderly

THE Vale Council has set aside £380,000 to continue its scheme to help the over 60s and 70s with their council tax bills.

"The scheme will see residents who are eligible for the award receive a remittance of up to £40 towards their council tax payment, and it is estimated that over 10,000 households in the Vale will benefit from the reduction," a spokesperson said.

The council has also agreed that all residents who received the award in the 2013/14 financial year will have the scheme automatically applied to their account, provided they still meet qualifying criteria.

'Merger would be a disaster'

INOTE the comments made on The GEM letters page by my Independent colleague, Phil Clarke (Rhoose) and would like to make it clear that I do not support his views regarding merging the Vale with Cardiff Council.

I cannot agree with his views, as a merger with Cardiff would be a takeover and evidence has shown in the past that under South Glamorgan we had 75 per cent of the road network and only 25 per cent of the funding, which is just one piece of evidence to support this.

The current situation certainly is unsustainable as he says, but I believe it would be more beneficial to join with Bridgend rather than Cardiff.

It was a real surprise to me that Coun Clarke did not vote with the

majority against a merger with Cardiff on a recent motion to Full Council. He was a lone voice out of those present, which surprised me when the Vale is a better performing council than Cardiff – a fact recorded by the Welsh Local Government Association.

Additionally, I feel that we should now have a public referendum on this matter and let the public have a say before any mergers take place.

Yes, the council tax increase was high here in the Vale, but that is because we are not getting our fair share of funding from the Labour-led Welsh Government and agree this was wrong but we all should be lobbying for a fair share per head.

It is a struggle, but if we merge with Cardiff Council it would be a disaster for us in the Vale and we would be sorry in years to come.

Richard Bertin, Barry
(Independent councillor, Vale Council)

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Spare a thought for planners'

SPARE a thought for the planners in Vale of Glamorgan Council...bombed by applications, besieged by objections, intimidated by appeals, what would you do in their position?

Seek guidance from the robust Local Development Plan? Sorry, there isn't one. Request more resources to cope with increased work load? Sorry, budgets must be reduced (even though the recent rise in Council Tax is one of the highest in UK). Challenge Planning Policy Wales' 10,000 new houses target? Sorry, your Draft LDP needs an additional 1,000 houses (on top of the original 10,000).

'Tree-cutting can be beneficial'

IAM writing concerning letters in recent editions of The GEM about cutting down trees on Rhoose Point; whilst this type of landscape management appears drastic at first sight, it is in fact beneficial for wildlife.

The trees have been coppiced, which is a woodland management technique used in Britain for many centuries. They will quickly regrow from the stumps as can be seen in the areas that

were coppiced in 2013. Rather than killing trees, coppicing generally extends their life.

Coppice management gives a much more diverse range of wildlife. After cutting, the increased light lets vegetation grow vigorously. Brambles will cover the tree stools, encouraging insects and small mammals which use it as protection.

Woodpiles encourage many insects like beetles. As the coppice grows, the canopy closes which attracts different plants and animals until it is cut, re-starting the cycle.

The Buddleia did provide some benefits for nectaring insects during the flowering season. However, that needs to be balanced against it being a non-native plant that supports few species compared to our native flora.

Worse still, it out-competes rare and endangered native plants and invertebrates on Rhoose Point that require warm, sunny, exposed ground for their continued survival.

A group of residents started this work last April with a view to developing the area for

And it does not stop there. Under the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) if you build 10 houses, you have to contribute 30 per cent to social housing. Under the first DLDP, that was reduced to five houses. Under the second DLDP, if you build just one property, 35 per cent (of the development cost) would be allocated to the social housing fund.

This will prevent the small in-filling or single developments that are typical in villages.

This proposal is applicable only to the Vale of Glamorgan Council which is committed to driving development towards mini-estates in villages – that destroys their rural character.

Who is to blame for this? The Government you elect is the Government you deserve.

Paul Simpson, Colwinston

the use of residents, but progress was limited without this work by the council.

The coppicing of seven small woodland blocks is part of the original landscape management plan drawn up 10 or so years ago, and as far as I am aware, all work is based on these plans not residents' requests.

The area has been heavily neglected and personally I am pleased that the council is now acting upon its responsibilities to the benefit of wildlife and residents as originally planned for Rhoose Point.

Adam Mantell, Rhoose

Politics without the rancour...

LAST week's letter in The GEM from Coun Gwyn John of Llantwit Major, about my longstanding involvement in Vale politics, was somewhat predictable, and also in rather poor taste.

Like many councillors currently in power, there is a noticeable tendency to rubbish the views of those with whom they take issue over anything and everything, and this Llantwit representative would appear to be no different to his peers, unfortunately.

What I was seeking to point out was that his group of Independents in Llantwit Major might well be a force in their own community, but carry little weight in the wider Vale of Glamorgan, where big party politics rules the day, most of the time.

That, of course, is why their leader chose to join the socialists in Barry, and help promote the latter's agenda of high council tax rises each year, coupled with cuts in the education budgets, which have taken tens of thousands of pounds away from our local secondary schools, who are now being asked by a Labour education minister in Cardiff Bay to improve their performance.

Gwyn knows perfectly well that I have always worked hard on behalf of my

constituents, and continue to do so as a community councillor, so his assertions about Sully are somewhat frivolous.

As many residents in that fine village are finding – as they continue to be plagued by travelling people, and the threat of thousands of new houses under the draft LDP, issues in which the recently-elected Independent councillors have totally failed in their attempts to resolve those problems for the people they currently represent.

But surely you might ask – Is an Independent councillor really independent – or does he or she actually affiliate to a political party? I fail to see how an Independent can claim to be Independent as Gwyn does, when actually belonging to a registered party with its own logo and published manifesto, in similar manner to the other groups in the Vale who actually declare their ideals.

Not that Llantwilians can see much change in their village since they first elected Gwyn's team, other than those brought in by the Conservatives during the last decade.

Fortunately, I have several other friends amongst the Llantwit Independents, and will cheerfully engage with them on a variety of interesting subjects. **Coun Anthony Ernest, Penarth** (former Conservative member of the Vale Council)

Time to realise assets!

AS a resident whose view is directly onto No 1 dock at Barry, any use of this is to be welcomed – but I hope this will not be at the expense of the future development of one of Barry's greatest assets.

A watersports centre will not bring any extra jobs or revenue: what is

needed is a marina which would not only create much-needed employment and business opportunities, but millions of pounds in revenue.

Let's have no more excuses, because that is all they are.

Let's do what Cardiff, Penarth and Porthcawl have done to great benefit – realise our assets.

Bob Wheatley, Barry

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Council seeks proposals for St Paul's site

South Wales Central Tory AM, Andrew RT Davies, has claimed that the Vale Council is "ignoring the wishes of residents" in Penarth over the future use of St Paul's church.

He said the plans were discussed at a recent cabinet meeting and councillors said that it had been a "headache" dealing with the future use of the site.

However, the council insists it is working towards a long-term solution.

Mr Davies, who last month met with Penarth Boxing Club, said: "Last year, the council held a public vote on the future of the church with residents overwhelmingly backing a long-term future for the gym and boxing clubs.

"It now seems as though the council's

dithering over making a decision has allowed them a convenient way to earmark it for demolition and development. In 2011, the renovation costs would have been a fraction of what they are now.

"The boxing club has been put in an impossible position. They were asked to submit a business proposal to the council but not told how much rent they would have to pay."

The Vale Council's Rob Thomas told The GEM: "On March 24, the cabinet considered a report that outlined a way forward for the re-use of the building for community purposes.

"Both clubs will have the opportunity to put forward proposals for bringing the building back into use as will

all other groups with an interest in doing so. It is recognised that the building has deteriorated, but the council is awaiting a suitable proposal for a sustainable and long-term future for the site," he explained

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, April 27 at 2pm, 'Coastal Footpath and Golden Stairs', at Porthkerry Country Park, starting at the cafe car park.

Also on April 27 at 2.30pm, 'Clychau'r Gog (bluebells)', maes parcio Brynawr Country Park car park.

On Wednesday, April 30 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

Ward surgery

LABOUR Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan will be

Ambulance Service award

THE Welsh Ambulance Service has been awarded the Corporate Health Standard for its commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of its workforce.

The Trust, which employs more than 3,000 people, was granted the bronze award following a two-day assessment.

The Corporate Health Standard, funded by Welsh Government and delivered by Public Health Wales, is the quality ma

It is presented in bronze, silver, gold and platinum categories to public, private and third sector organisations implementing practices to promote the health and wellbeing of their employees.

Out & about

holding their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, April 19 from 10am - 11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library, King's Square. No appointment necessary.

Barnardo's coffee

MAKE a date for a Barnardo's coffee morning on Tuesday, May 6 at 10.30am in the Heronstone Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

Stalls include tombola, cakes and accessories. Admission £4, including coffee and biscuits.

Welsh Hearts WELSH Hearts

charity is working alongside anaesthetic and intensive care doctors from all over Wales to teach important life-saving skills to schoolchildren.

A spokeswoman explained: "Hour-long sessions will provide a thorough understanding of basic life support.

By passing on our experience and skills we will give the staff and students and confidence to deal with medical emergencies."

Contact Welsh Hearts on 029 2078 6521, or email fundraising@welshhearts.org

Join the Easter 'Walk of Witness' in Barry

THE Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' takes place on Friday, April 18 and begins at the Parade Gardens (opposite the Ship Hotel) at 12 noon.

It is hoped to reach the final station at King's Square about 1.30pm.

Station one is at the Parade Gardens, where 'Gethsemane' will be read by Rev Clive Jones.

Station two is at Barry Railway Station where the 'Trial before Pilate' address will be given by Fr Ben Andrews.

Station three is at The One Stop Store.

Step out for Kidney Wales LOCAL residents are being urged to take a bracing walk to raise funds for Kidney Wales at Morrison's car park, Barry, on Sunday, April 27.

Registration starts at 11am to collect donations and issue t-shirts. The walk begins at 11.30am, heading down Broad Street to the Lake, Park Avenue and back.

For sponsor forms, call Debbie Baker on 07876 597021, or email debron63@hotmail.co.uk

and will be 'Simon of Cyrene', by Fr Pat O'Gorman.

Station four will be at AG Adams Funeral Home, where 'Women of Jerusalem' will be read by Rev Peter Taylor.

Anyone wishing to use the facilities at AG Adams are more than welcome to do so before walkers proceed through Holton Road to the final station at King's Square.

Station five, the final station, will be at King's Square.

'Crucifixion' will be read by Mike Holmes. 33 white balloons will be released at the square after the final reading.

Hot cross buns will be available and at the Tabernacle Welsh Church, there will be refreshments).

The Churches of Barry wish everyone a very Happy Easter. SB

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More of what matters

'Onesie Wednesday' gives a sweet taste of success at Heronsbridge!

Teachers and staff get into the spirit of Onesie Wednesday.

PUPILS and staff at Heronsbridge School danced, ate and drank their way to a sweet donation for charity – all in their onesies!

Everyone at the school donned their favourite nightwear and took part in a day of money-raising activities for the Bridgend branch of the National Autistic Society on 'Onesie Wednesday', a campaign run by the charity to raise awareness of the issues surrounding autism on World Autism Awareness Day.

As part of the fundraising frolics, the pupils raised £160 by taking part in a 'Zumbathon' and munching on cupcakes which parents and staff had baked to sell. Tesco Extra in Bridgend also donated cakes.

The school's coffee shop, which its pupils help to run, also donated the day's profits to the cause, which took the total raised through the pyjama-clad activities to £250.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for

children and young people, said: "Congratulations to the children and staff at Heronsbridge School for getting into the spirit of Onesie Wednesday and raising £250 for charity."

"The school is passionate about fundraising for a range of local, national and international causes, so it's no surprise that the pupils and staff have made such a 'onesie-ful' effort on behalf of the Bridgend branch of the National Autistic Society."

Onesie Wednesday formed part of a busy week for the school, as it also held a family information day in its Heron Hall. More than 20 different organisations attended and gave advice and information to local parents of children with additional needs.

Headteacher Glynis James, said: "I'm really proud of all the pupils and staff who danced their socks off for charity on World Autism Awareness Day."

"Thanks to the parents and staff who baked cakes for the cause, and to Tesco Extra for donating cakes".



The school's coffee shop donated the day's profits to the cause.



Teachers and staff got into the spirit of Onesie Wednesday.

TV presenter Ruth asks you to swap your night out for a Night In with Macmillan

VALE-based ITV presenter Ruth Wignall is asking residents to host a 'Night In for Macmillan' on May 16 – to help the charity support people affected by cancer.

She has shown her backing for the event by taking part in a Night In

photo shoot for Macmillan with her mother, Liz Dodsworth.

Night In asks people to invite friends to a catch-up and meal.

Everyone donates what they would have spent on a night out and the money goes to help people with cancer.

Ruth, who grew up in the Gower, is supporting Night In after her family had help from Macmillan when her grandfather was diagnosed with cancer.

She explained: "Our involvement with Macmillan started when my grandfather was diagnosed with prostate cancer and secondary bone cancer 20 years

ago.

"He was ill for such a long time and the degeneration was quite brutal, but Macmillan made all the difference to my nan and my mum."

"They did home visits, they helped with the practicality of it all and they were someone to talk to at such a lonely time – they were an extension of the family."

"There's strength in numbers and you're not alone – that's where Macmillan is so good." Her family's link with the charity has continued after her father Stephen Dodsworth was diagnosed with blood cancer three years ago.



Ruth Wignall (right) with her mum, Liz Dodsworth.

The 63-year-old had an operation to remove a secondary tumour on his spine following his diagnosis, but doctors could not remove it completely because of its location.

Mother-of-two Ruth said: "Dad has a type of blood cancer and he's doing really well. He has a really good quality of life, but we know that that won't always be the case."

"Knowing that Macmillan is there and

will be there for him and my mum makes a huge difference."

Ruth, who lives in Cowbridge, is now pledging her support for Macmillan by appealing for people across Wales to host a Night In.

She says she loves the idea as it is so easy to take part.

"I think Night In is fantastic, as the money you would have spent on a night out doesn't have to be oodles and

it's really doable," Ruth said. Whether you're donating the price of a bottle of wine and a pizza, every little bit helps."

To take part and get your Night In kit visit www.macmillan.org.uk/nightin or call 0300 1000 200.

For information or support from Macmillan, call (free) on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm); or visit macmillan.org.uk



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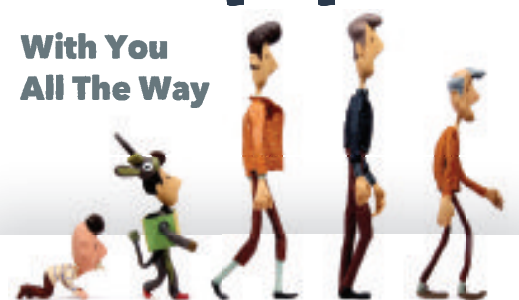
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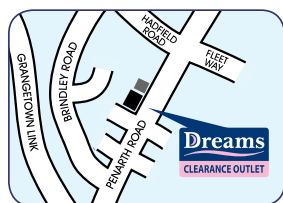
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RIGHT: Alun Cairns is greeted by his son
Henri, on completion of his marathon run.

Shattered MP's 'PB' in London Marathon

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, who ran the London Marathon last Sunday in aid of Ty Hapus, the Alzheimer's care unit in Barr, and the local branch of Marie Curie Cancer Care, has raised

almost £6,000 "so far" – with more to come in.

He joined a field of more than 30,000 runners, including seven MPs and ran a personal best time of 3 hours and 34 minutes, beating his nearest rival MP, Ed Timpson, by more than eight minutes. Shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls, completed the course in 4 hours 57 mins.

Afterwards, Mr Cairns reported: "Although it was great fun and exhausting at the same time, the most important thing for me is to thank everyone for their generous support in aid of Ty Hapus and Marie Curie.

"The response from constituents has been phenomenal. I feel so humbled that so many people have pledged support, many on an anonymous basis, and others in memory of people that passed on. Thank you so much.

"When I finished, I was shattered but so pleased. I managed to improve on my previous marathon attempts by some five minutes. The emotional and inspirational stories of so many supporters and runners and the fantastic backing from the crowds carried me through the last few miles.

"Ty Hapus is a unique and specialist daytime service for people with early onset Alzheimers and other dementias, and Marie Curie Cancer Care is dedicated to the care of people with terminal illness.

"The money I raise by completing the London Marathon will go towards supporting the services offered by both of these charities which are invaluable to residents across Barry and the Vale."

To sponsor the MP and support Ty Hapus and Marie Curie, log onto www.virginmoneygiving.com/aluncairnsmmp.



St Brides pupils join a wild Welsh weekend!

OVER 230 applicants from across Wales applied for free National Garden Centre vouchers, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's 'Have a Wild Weekend for Wales' campaign.

Funded by Welsh Government, National Resources Wales and the proceeds from the single use carrier bag charge, the aim of the weekend-long campaign was to encourage people to improve food sources and natural habitat for pollinators in Wales.

Volunteers from St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School rolled up their sleeves, got back to nature and gave bees and butterflies a helping hand in the school grounds.

They won £150 in National Garden Centre vouchers which they then used to buy two apple trees, gardening

gloves, buddleia and various herbs and flowers to create two butterfly borders adjacent to the school junior yard and field.

During Wild Weekend the school eco club designed the garden and then the year-4 class planted the trees, dug and planted flowers and herbs to transform this part of the school grounds after the recent classroom extensions.

Colin Decker, who volunteered to assist the pupils with the planting, said: "It was great to see so many pupils get involved in this project. 'Wild Weekend' has enabled us to make a huge improvement to the pollen and nectar that's on offer in the school grounds and hopefully this will benefit our local environment and wildlife.

"Key Stage 2 pupils cannot wait to see the apples grow and are asking who will get to eat them!"

Disaster relief worker tells Rotarians of RedR

DINAS POWYS Rotarians welcomed speaker Peter Nuttall, a disaster relief co-ordinator with RedR, to their recent meeting at the Huntsman Restaurant.

RedR was founded in 1980 to provide a register of skilled professional engineers, needed when disasters happen across the world.

RedR continues today, delivering vital training for relief workers and provides skilled professionals to humanitarian programmes throughout the world.

An organisation with the Princess Royal as its president, and a number

of the major chartered engineering institutions among its patrons, RedR has offices across the world, but is based in the UK.

"We heard not only an excellent presentation concerning the history and current actions of RedR, but also a presentation of Peter's own experiences of the reality of working on the ground in disaster hit areas of the world, providing essential immediate assistance and training.

"A most interesting and moving presentation on the tremendous work this charity provides," commented president Tony Stevens.

RedR is one of his nominated societies.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Inspiring tales that carried me through the Marathon'

THIS week, I joined a field of over 35,000 runners to start the 26.2 mile London Marathon.

This was my third London Marathon and as in other years the emotional and inspirational stories of so many supporters and runners with the fantastic backing from the crowds carried me through the last few miles.

It certainly worked as I was delighted to finish as the fastest of eight MPs who ran.

My reason for running, however, is much more important – each year I try to raise money for local charities – this year, Ty Hapus, the Alzheimer's respite care unit in Barry and the local branch of Marie Curie Cancer.

Ty Hapus is a unique and specialist day time service for people with early onset Alzheimer's

and other dementias; Marie Curie Cancer Care is dedicated to the care of people with terminal illness. Both are very close to my heart in that the lives of two very special people to me needed the kind of support they offer.

The money raised will go towards the services they provide which are invaluable to residents across Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan.

I feel so humbled to have received so much support from constituents. So far, I have raised around £6,000 and all donations make a real difference. Some who donated have done so anonymously and others have contributed in memory of a loved one who has passed on.

These charities, like others, are best placed to know how the money should be spent. Their care and support is at the heart of what they do.

They draw people to



work or volunteer because they are passionate about caring and making a difference. I am thrilled to see projects that show people coming together to improve the lives of others and strengthen our society.

During my time as your MP, I have had the privilege of meeting and seeing first hand the work of so many charities across all parts of Barry and the Vale.

I pay tribute to the tireless efforts that keep the Vale of Glamorgan so

vibrant and strong.

It is impossible to name them all but just over recent times I have seen excellent work conducted by groups that save public departments, such as Social Services, hundreds of thousands of pounds by reducing dependency and facilitating a better quality of life.

Age Connects (formerly Age Concern) whose shop on Holton Road provides a host of invaluable kinds of activities and support for older people; Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern is a first class example of a community coming together to support its vulnerable residents; Rotary, Probus and Lions Clubs support so many events and raise huge sums, as do Women's Institutes and the Soroptimists. Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club ensures that people with special needs participate on an equal footing; church

Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers

groups of all denominations run festivals and Foodbanks – and are always available to help.

Other groups could include Atal y Fro, New Hope in Llantwit, RNLI, Mind in the Vale and so many more.

These all too often are the unsung heroes of our community – and there are countless more.

I could fill a page in The GEM just by naming the remainder. Please don't be offended if I haven't named your group. The Vale Centre for Voluntary Services and the Vale Volunteers Bureau provide fantastic support to charities and individuals. If you want to get involved, please let me know.

Although I've completed the marathon it's still not too late to support and if you would like to support Ty Hapus and Marie Curie please log onto
www.virginmoneygiving.com/aluncairnsmp

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Out and About with The GEM

RAILWAY MEMOIR

RAILWAY buffs will want to get hold of John M Morgan's *Fifty Years within Station Limits - The Life Of A South Wales Railwayman* (published by y Lolfa at £7.95).

This splendid little book is the bittersweet memoir of a south Wales railway man who followed his father's footsteps and became a signaller in the early 1950s.

This was at a time when working on the railways was a much sought after job and usually for life. The work was hard but varied with an opportunity to 'climb the ladder'. With great sadness, the author witnessed the rapid decline of the industry but, years later, a new chapter occurred.

A demand, once more, for rail transport meant that some former lines opened again. One was the passenger service in the Llynfi Valley to Maesteg which reopened in October 1990.

With plenty of interesting and humorous anecdotes, it is a must for all ex-railway workers.

BRIAN LEE

Railway society lecture

THE next lecture of the Barry and Penarth Railway Society will take place on April 24 at the Penarth Conservative Club at 7.30pm, when Brian Davies will speak on 'John Nixon and the coal trade to France'. Non-members welcome.

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What's on, and where?

'Challenge Camp'

ST Clare's School in Porthcawl is running an exciting day of fun-filled activities for all pupils in years-5 and 6. The school's first ever Easter 'Challenge Camp' is open to pupils from all local schools.

Pupils are being tested on all sorts of skills, both physical and mental, and have to work together to win each challenge, and work towards some exciting prizes.

'Challenge Camp' is taking place today (Thursday, April 17) from 9.30am until 3.30pm and is completely free of charge to everyone in years-5 and 6.

For more information, contact 01656 789966.

Charity Easter egg hunt

ARTHRITIS Research UK is raising funds to help the 15,000 young children in the UK who have juvenile idiopathic arthritis, by holding a charity Easter egg hunt at the Nature Trail, Cottrell Park Golf Resort at 12 noon on Saturday, April 19.

Tickets cost £5 each for children (adults go free) and each child participating will receive a small Easter gift for taking part in the event. Further fundraising activities will take place and prizes will be given for the largest individual egg collected, the smallest individual egg collected and the most eggs of a particular colour.

For further information and tickets contact Anna-Marie Jones, regional fundraising manager on 029 20 512 438 / 07854 440 769 or a.jones@arthritisresearchuk.org.

St Helen's welcome
THE Lenten journey leads to the three days that make up the Easter Triduum at St Helen's Roman Catholic church, which culminates on Easter Sunday.

April 17, Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm; Good Friday, April 18 celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm; Holy Saturday, April 19 Easter Vigil at 8pm; Easter Sunday, April 20 Morning Masses at 8.30am and 10.30am.

Gardening club
THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be the AGM and social evening at the Lesser Town Hall, Cowbridge,

at 7.30pm on April 24

Island tennis
BARRY Athletic Tennis Club (located on Barry Island next to the cricket ground) will be holding its open day on Saturday, April 26 (1.30pm start).

The club has a men's team in Division one, and a ladies' team in Division six of the inter-club summer doubles leagues, with matches taking place between May and July.

The coaching team at Vale Tennis Academy hold a junior morning on Sunday mornings (with a nominal charge).

Contact Carolyn Gatt on 07836 758954, or visit website www.barrytennis.co.uk.

Bowls open day

BARRY Athletic Bowls Club on Barry Island will hold an 'open day' on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm and welcomes new and experienced bowlers of any age or sex to try out the game.

Wear trainers or flat soled heel-less shoes. All other equipment will be provided.

Contact secretary, Clive Cottrell on 01446 410708.

Bethesda choir

ON May 19 at 7.30pm in Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road, Barry, the Bethesda Community Choir from Dinas Powys will be singing a selection of lively Gospel music.

Tickets are £5 adults, £3 children including refreshments, available at the door, or by telephoning 07760666372. Proceeds to Salem Church.

Screen Talk's summer blockbuster preview!

THERE can be little argument that the summer blockbuster season of 2013 flattered to deceive. While box office numbers were strong, the quality of films on show was the opposite; nothing caught the imagination, the old argument of Hollywood's lack of originality creating a summer of sequels and remakes.

There is more than a fair share of these this year, but in the interests of fairness these should be given the benefit of the doubt before the critical knife gets stuck in.

The season seems to start earlier and earlier every year, and arguably *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* opened the salvo last month. Another superhero pops up in a sequel in *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (on general release now); with an overload of villains to battle Peter Parker's arachnid alter-ego, expect the usual sequel elements of 'darker and more epic'.

April 25 sees Christopher Nolan's long-time director of photography, Wally Pfister, make his directorial bow with *Transcendence*, a tale of a dying man whose memories are uploaded to a computer in order to keep him living. With the trailer showing a mix of startling visuals and a more cerebral

feel, this could be a satisfying, and deeper, summer offering.

With Paul WS Anderson taking a visit to *Pompeii* on May 2 (expect *Titanic*'s plot and Anderson's usual critic-baiting CGI overload), May 9 sees Arnold Schwarzenegger shooting way through *Sabotage*, while Seth Rogen and Zac Efron battle in frat comedy *Bad Neighbours*.

A week later sees *Godzilla* hitting cinema screens (a film that could be one of the highlights of the season), with Bryan Cranston, Aaron Taylor Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen providing the human counterpoint to their scaly co-star, while Bryan Singer brings his ambitious, time-bending *X-Men: Days of Future Past* out on May 22, which sees the past and present X-casts brought together to battle the mutant-killing Sentinels.

The following day sees a special delivery to cinemas via a bright red van as the privatised *Postman Pat: The Movie* makes its bow, and a week later (May 30) Angelina Jolie's take on classic Disney villain Maleficent battles against Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt in Doug Liman's *Groundhog Day-meets-Doom Edge of Tomorrow*.

June 6 sees two comedies fight it out as sequel *22 Jump Street* goes up against Seth MacFarlane's eagerly-anticipated *Ted* follow-up, *A Million Ways to Die in the West*, and there then follows a



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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three-week pause for breath before *Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie* comes out on June 27.

There's one for the kids on July 4 with *How To Train Your Dragon 2* catches up with Hiccup and his dragon, before Michael Bay's no doubt headache-inducing *Transformers: Age of Extinction* makes an appearance on July 10 (take note Oscar voters).

A week later, sees the *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* as the simians' plan to take over the world meets with human resistance, while a day later sees another world-conquering

animal make its cinematic debut as *Pudgey: The Movie* barks his way onto screens.

The Wachowski brothers will be hoping for some of *The Matrix*'s critical and box office love on July 25 with their Channing Tatum/Mila Kunis-starring sci-fi-actioner *Jupiter Ascending*, while Marvel release their riskiest film yet, with the *Guardians of the Galaxy* (among them a violent raccoon and a talking tree) aiming to save the universe, on August 1.

We catch up with Will, Simon, Neil and Jay in *The Inbetweeners Movie 2* on August 6, the hapless foursome finding themselves backpacking in Australia; expect coarseness aplenty, with the odd touching moment, and the summer blockbuster season wraps up nicely with a return to *Sin City* in *A Dame to Die For* on August 29.

With plenty to look forward to, the cinematic seems to be in rude health; but, as ever, the proof will be in the pudding.

POET FOLLOWS GREAT GRANDMA!

FFORD-Y-GOEDWIG, Kenfig Hill author Angharad Rees is on her way to securing a publishing deal, following in her great-grandmother poet Margaret Mathews-Rees' footsteps.

The Journal will be her first novella, composed of diary extracts and poetry, sharing one woman's journey from heartbreak to self-discovery.



Our GEM Facebook winner for April 10 is:

Laura McGreevy

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was: **MIKE DOYLE**

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

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Organ donation prompts debate

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS ROUND-UP

THE absence of the expected speaker did not daunt Southerndown WI members from enjoying a stimulating monthly meeting.

President Meryl dealt thoroughly with the county letter, discussing recent and future outings – the annual council meeting at Port Talbot on May 7, institute link meeting and a charity fashion show in September, proceeds of which to be donated to Alzheimer's society as a tribute to a past member, Maureen Ward.

Much time was spent describing the election procedure at next month's AGM. It was

explained that any member can stand for committee. A rather more serious aspect of NFWI is the annual proposal of a resolution at its AGM, a choice decided by all members.

This year, it is 'Increasing organ donation'. There was a lengthy discussion, members airing their views freely both for and against.

The main bone of contention was the fact that the Welsh system differs from the English. In a pre-vote, the branch voted to abstain.

The AGM is on May 8 at St Brides Major church hall at 7.15pm. **BM**

Double world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales. Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

OVER the weekend, I was out exploring the coastline and came upon the beautiful setting where Dunraven Castle used to stand, just above the beach of Southerndown.

Sitting at an elevation of 40 metres above sea level, this climb is the perfect place for this week's challenge.

Choose a calm day and head out for a hill challenge with the family. The idea is to get the whole family to the castle entrance, starting at the car park, as fast as possible.

This one is all about teamwork – and there is nothing wrong with giving each other a helping hand. Make sure you record your time and if you have the energy, jog back to the bottom and try and beat your time on a second attempt. Don't forget to warm up.

On my website is a map showing the hill

climb and a circular route around the castle and the gardens. Put some time aside during Easter and give it a go, you'll definitely feel the burn in your legs in the evening.

Did you know, due to its spectacular setting, Dunraven castle was once used as a location for Doctor Who?

Set yourself the challenge and let us know how you got on, log onto www.burnseries.co.uk for full details.

I've always thought that hill climbing is as much in the mind as it is in the legs. Have you ever noticed that as soon as you approach a climb, you automatically slow down, even before

you've begun the climb?

To try and combat this, I always make myself speed up leading to a climb, so that when the climb begins I return to my normal speed. It's worked for me so far!

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures. See Column Footnote on

www.burnseries.co.uk

FOOTNOTE:

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going. Have you heard of

Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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Answer to the question... 'Where's my Bond?'

TWO of the most common queries we have from tenant clients are queries about bond registration and being served with a notice from their landlords.

If you rent your home and your landlord or agent requested a bond from you, do you know where your bond is? If not, your bond may have not been registered. Your landlord or agent must register your bond with a government approved scheme within 30 days of receipt.

If they don't then you can claim your bond back, plus a sum equivalent to three times the amount of the bond as compensation. That can be as

much as £3,000 on an average property.

If your bond was registered after 30 days of receipt, you can still claim the above. We are able to take on cases on a no win no fee basis. Providing you have not damaged your property or failed to pay your rent, we are happy to claim the above for you.

In some circumstances until the bond is returned to you the Landlord cannot recover possession of the property.

With regard to notices, the majority of notices we see that are served on tenants are invalid. If a notice is invalid then a tenant does not have to vacate the property. It can be quite difficult to calculate

the dates of a notice and the consequences of an invalid notice include wasted time and cost.

If you have been served a notice and you would like to obtain advice on whether it is valid or not, then please speak to one of our housing team who will be happy to advise you. If the notice is invalid we can write to the landlord on your behalf for as little as £50 plus VAT. As a tenant if you have any other problems such as finding the locks at the property have been changed, your landlord has accessed your property without permission, or the property is in a state of disrepair, we may be able to assist you on a no win no fee basis.

Contact our Housing Department on 0330 123 11 31 for further information.

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MARINA DEVELOPMENT AT PORTHCAWL HARBOUR WILL BOOST REGENERATION



Bridgend County Borough Council Deputy Leader David Sage and Council Leader Mel Nott unveil a plaque to declare the new Porthcawl Marina officially open.



ABOVE (left to right): Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon; First Minister Carwyn Jones; Derek Vaughan MEP; Minister for Finance Jane Hutt AM; Brendan Howlin - Ireland's Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, and Bridgend County Borough Council Leader, Coun Mel Nott.



RE V A M P E D
Porthcawl Harbour has been officially opened and the historic harbour has been completely transformed – as part of a multi-million pound regeneration project.

It features a new harbour gate with pedestrian footbridge, a permanent basin of water, an extension to its eastern breakwater, and pontoon moorings for 70 leisure, commercial and visiting craft.

The EU-backed project has also included the refurbishment of the old harbour master's office and staff to oversee daily business at the busy marina, where all berths have been fully allocated. Advance moorings have been booked for visitors to the forthcoming events such as the Senior Open golf tournament and this year's Elvis Festival.

The new marina is part of BCBC's regeneration plans for the town.

Funding for the marina has been provided by the Coastal Tourism Project led by Visit Wales, the Welsh Government and the European Regional Development Fund.

Deputy Leader David Sage, the council's spokesperson on regeneration, said: "This marks the completion of a significant landmark project in the regeneration of

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Porthcawl and the first step in the regeneration of the waterfront area.

"The harbour represents an important part of the town's history, and by upgrading and providing it with modern, refurbished facilities, we can ensure that it continues to fulfil this role in its new incarnation as Porthcawl Marina."

Council Leader Mel Nott commented: "It's great to see that Porthcawl Marina is already doing really well. As we continue to regenerate the waterfront area, we'll be seeking to further enhance the marina's facilities and expand on its success."

"For example, we are currently liaising with developers over potential opportunities for bringing the nearby Grade II listed Jennings building back into public use."

"This has taken a significant step forward to becoming a reality and we recently learned that our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a townscape heritage initiative in Porthcawl has been successful, with a grant of £524,900 being

awarded for the entire programme.

"The delivery of Porthcawl Marina further emphasises our commitment towards the regeneration of the town, as well as our ambition to develop Porthcawl as a 21st century seaside resort," he added.

Minister for Finance Jane Hutt AM said: "I am delighted two have been able to invest EU resources to support one of south Wales' most popular seaside resorts, helping to attract visitors to the town and in turn providing real and lasting economic benefits for area. This is another positive example of the benefits of EU Funds and our membership with the EU."

The opening of the Marina was attended by First Minister Carwyn Jones AM, Jane Hutt AM, Derek Vaughan MEP, Madeline Moon MP, council Leader Mel Nott and deputy Leader David Sage. Brendan Howlin, Ireland's Minister for public expenditure and reform, was also in attendance as a guest of Jane Hutt.



*LEFT:
The walkway leading down to the marina berths.*

*BELOW:
The marina looking its best in the sunshine.*





SPRING INTO EASTER

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street



Easter in Barry's West End is always full of family fun



ABOVE:
Cycling is rapidly becoming one of Wales' most popular sports. To get your bike, equipment and lots of useful advice, go to Beespoke Cycles in High Street.

EASTER is a special time in Barry's West End and is marked with the longstanding tradition of the High Street Bonnet Parade – this Saturday, April 19 – all ages welcome!

The acting chairman of High Street traders, Bob Armstrong of Doctor Bob Balloons Unlimited, said he was looking forward to lots of competitors on the big day.

"We're looking forward to seeing people with their bonnets from the age of four to the age of 100."

"All the fun starts at Habanas at 10.30am when there will be the traditional procession up and down the street before judging back at Habanas."

"The age categories are four to eight, nine to 14 and 15 to 100."

And when Bob says 100, he means it!

"We used to have a lady who would turn up in her Easter bonnet in her late 80s and early 90s!"

"The judging will be conducted by the Assembly Member Jane Hutt, the local MP Alun Cairns and, we hope, the Barry Mayor."

Every year there is a healthy turnout.

"The fewest people we have had would be around 40, which is still quite high, and shows how much people enjoy the tradition."

"This year it looks as if the weather will be nice. The event creates a nice buzz and gets the children excited."

"It is great fun when the procession goes up and down High Street. Many of the traders are keen to see the 'creations' people are wearing."

NEW ARRIVAL

High Street has cultivated an enviable reputation over many decades for the friendliness of its business owners and the high standards of service, so it is no surprise new businesses are keen to locate there.

Beautiful Lily is this year's new arrival. Helen Huggins' stylish shop is for those who love flowers, plants and garden gifts.

"We always have fresh flowers and gifts for every sort of occasion – weddings, funerals or family celebrations."

"This Easter we've got a special £20 bouquet offer (something to delight your mum or wife with!)."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



ABOVE: For great food you can't do better than 'Food for Thought' which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary of service to the community – you can only reach milestones like that if you are doing something right.

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at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street



Great businesses with great service



ABOVE: Vic Hopkins & Son – Barry's popular local butchers.



ABOVE: Giggles – for an absolutely brilliant selection of toys to amaze and delight your children.



ABOVE: Miss Holmes is a classy boutique full of great branded gifts for the family. Nicola, the owner, does the legwork for clients by selecting the top 10 best sellers across a number of brands – providing the best of the best in one place.



ABOVE: The staff at Richard Jones Carpets are helpful and knowledgeable with lots of advice on a huge range of carpets. They will even come out to your house to measure up and provide you with a quote. What could be easier?



ABOVE: Beautiful Lily is a new arrival on High Street and will provide a real boost for your home and garden.



Beespoke Cycles has a great choice of bikes.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Helen supplies planters, baskets and even has exclusive local rights for Laura Ashley garden products. The shop also provides garden maintenance services.

Marie Jones has just celebrated her first anniversary at Giggles which sells a wonderful range of both traditional and modern toys that delight youngsters.

Giggles also hosts one of the best kept secrets in Barry – Photoart, a gallery run by Barbra Archdale-Smith.

Barbra has been a keen photographer for many years and after obtaining her Associateship Of The Royal Photographic Society (ARPS) decided to take her craft to the next level by becoming a professional photographer.

She has developed many images, both local and international, to retail in the gallery and has also developed a selection of cards to complement the work on display.

All her photographic images may be purchased in frames, on mounts or on 'FotoBlocks', as well as the range of cards, which are proving very popular. Barbra also chairs Barry Camera Club, and is supportive and encouraging of new and enthusiastic photographers wishing to become involved in imagery.

Stylish new businesses... galleries... places to eat ... reliable shops with a proven track record – no wonder when people talk of the quintessential high street experience, they think of Barry's West End!



ABOVE: 'Barry Island Sandtracks' by Barbra Archdale-Smith. More prints of her work are available at her gallery at Giggles in High Street.



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All the fun of the (Fonmon) country fair!

THE Fonmon Game and Country fair is one of the Vale's premier rural events and local photographer Lauren Yeoman was on hand to capture some of the excitement and action.

Not only was it an opportunity for families to see great horse-riding displays, it was a chance for youngsters to see lots of animals 'up close and personal'.



Pictures by
LAUREN YEOMAN



The crowds were thrilled by some of the skilful horseriding displays.



Councillor rallies to plight of Kes



VALE of Glamorgan biodiversity champion, Coun Rob Curtis, has donated three kestrel nest boxes, which he made himself, to the countryside wardens at the Heritage Coast based at Southerdown.

He explained: "Kestrels, once among the most common birds of prey in Britain, have suffered a dramatic fall in their numbers.

"The latest surveys show Kestrels, who are often seen hovering over our motorways hunting for voles and mice, have declined by over a third. "In the past, these iconic birds have suffered from pesticide poisoning as well as illegal trapping and shooting."

Long term decline had also seen kestrel numbers fall by a fifth between 1995 and 2008.



ABOVE:
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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their home as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Wanted: warm weather for the hives' foragers!

SPRING is definitely here but as of yet I have not carried out any in depth inspections at any of the apiaries.

The weather is always the dominant factor when you wish to open up a hive and observe what is or is not proceeding and the present conditions are not at all suitable.

At the beginning of any year, pollen is a crucial input for the welfare of all colonies. What is needed now are some dry and warmer days so that the forager bees can get out and about and collect this vital substance.

I have made several visits to the apiaries to observe the comings and goings, and what I see is very encouraging.

All of the colonies were fed and treated for Varroa Mites in September of last year; however, I have added foodstuff to one or two of the colonies that are showing a lot of activity and, of course, I am regularly checking the contents of the trays I have in place on the underneath of several of them.

Two colonies, in particular, are revealing high numbers of mites (dead, of course) and I must take steps to reduce the infestation in these two colonies because problems will arise if I ignore the situation.

How do I know the numbers are high? Well, the contents of the trays are removed and put into containers that bear colonies' details. Later on, back home, using a large light assisted magnifier, I can

examine the hive debris and start to count individual mites.

These two particular hives are showing counts of 110 and 100. Other colonies are only showing 5, 9 and less. As all of the colonies received the same mite treatment, something needs to be done.

This year, as in previous years, there will be newcomers to the craft of beekeeping, all of course eager to get started and as soon as conditions allow myself and others will introduce them to the apiaries and take them through the various steps required when handling a colony of bees.

Apart from the theory, it is the actual hands-on experience that counts, not every newcomer is comfortable with the live bee side of things and previously one or two have decided against becoming beekeepers, but in the main, the fascination of the internal workings of a colony gets to you and you want to know more.

We do need more beekeepers and the pollinating insects are the unsung heroes of the planet we live on. Their existence is under threat and we ignore this situation at our peril. The need for the youngsters to take up beekeeping is of paramount importance; I am getting older and must some day give up my bee activity.

Education authorities could well help here by introducing a school project and contacting the Welsh Assembly who do have a Pollinator action plan.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number

- £2,000: 160573.
- The rollover, which now stands at £9,500 was not won this week.
- £10: 465173; 669359; 116924; 799566; 374464; 162998; 933887; 634238; 897280; 461843; 653760; 182040; 549275; 377458; 515004; 985702; 120310; 167832; 114631; 195323.
- £5: 848851; 490853; 321673; 424924; 734029; 387333; 713816; 335100; 710625; 176112; 777432;

301463; 253533; 809225; 537886; 497197; 864776; 474269; 660832; 601062; 670686; 764068; 652040; 494727; 738921; 599021; 365262; 494688; 325017; 541063; 690112; 454881; 768650; 679673; 550046; 421664; 870882; 537188; 807617; 921201; 788521; 527852; 834020; 932443; 415476; 483372; 566497; 326006; 822317; 599444; 461187; 915271; 443230; 113301; 583490; 149987; 573018.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.



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IPAD GIFT OFFERS WINDOW FOR LEARNING AT COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE

Cowbridge Comprehensive School students have taken delivery of a brand new iPad as part of a local business' scheme to invest in IT for schools.

Securahome, which has showrooms in Ewenny Garden Centre Bridgend and Gorseinon, Swansea, is giving away iPads to schools across Wales as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations.

The iPad was presented to assistant head Jonathan Ling, who explained the how tablet computers are used to aid learning in the school.

"iPads are used across the curriculum, for subjects from English through to Chemistry," he said. "We have subject specific, educational apps on them as well as books for children to read in the library, teachers also use them to write their subject blogs, so this donation will get good use!"

Securahome, which specialises in the installation of orangeries, conservatories, windows and doors, launched the scheme to mark its two-decade of business.

The company's MD Jason Jenkins said: "We've had a large number of referrals and recommendations from customers over our 20 years in business and so wanted to give something back to say 'Thank you'."

"As a father I know how important and useful IT is for learning, so donating iPads to schools seemed to be a natural way of giving something back to the community that has supported us so well."

Under the scheme, customers who are making an enquiry or referral can nominate a school to receive an iPad. Each month Securahome will hold a draw of the names submitted, with the winner receiving an iPad.

Mr Ling added: "We are very pleased to be supporting this scheme, it is good to see a local business invest in the community in this way."

The scheme was also commended by Gorseinon AM and Minister for Science, Enterprise and Transport Ewina Hart at its launch earlier this month.

Mrs Hart said: "Good companies accept their corporate social responsibility, and it's wonderful to see someone who has built a successful business from scratch take this seriously and give something back to the community."



Securahome sales and marketing manager Nigel Hooking (far left) presents an iPad to assistant head Jonathan Ling and pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

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HOW 'OXBRIDGE OF THE DARK AGES' BECAME LEAFY LLANTWIT

RECENTLY, the Vale Council commissioned consultants to cast their eyes over towns in the Vale, and form a strategy to help them prosper and find a 'unique selling point' – as the business studies jargon likes to say.

When the consultants' report looked at Llantwit Major, it wasted no time on singling the town out for its "exceptional attributes".

Those attributes will come as no surprise to the town's residents – and people who know their way around the Vale will be well aware of them, too. The consultants enthused: "Llantwit Major benefits from some exceptional attributes, being located at the gateway to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, with an intriguing historical association with Welsh saints, an attractive historical quarter, a railway station and extensive car parking".

In fact, the phrase "attractive historical quarter" is under-selling Llantwit, if anything, because the narrow lanes, lined with buildings that are full of character, are a delight to meander through.

Add to that the charms of St Illtud's Church, which has benefited enormously from the addition of the Galilee Chapel, and you can spend a very relaxing and interesting couple of hours finding out more about Llantwit!

A few weeks ago, The Guardian weekend magazine featured Llantwit Major in its 'Let's

by PHILIP IRWIN

move to...' spot, and called this Vale town "the Oxbridge of the Dark Ages".

This was a reference to St Illtud, who is credited with establishing the UK's first 'university' at Llantwit Major in 508AD. You can learn much more about this man of learning by visiting the new education centre in the afore-mentioned Galilee chapel. The Guardian also spoke warmly of the "stone-walled lanes hung heavy with ivy and tweeting with spring birds".

Catch Llantwit on a sunny day and it can (CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE)

Llantwit Major Town Council

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LLANTWIT MAJOR *The historic heart of the Vale*

(CONTINUED FROM
PREVIOUS PAGE)

definitely make you wax lyrical! However, it is not just the leafy lanes, the history and the wide range of cafes, pubs and eating places that go to make Llantwit Major somewhere to visit and enjoy.

Over recent years, the town has bucked the trend of many town centres by bringing in new shops in a number of units that were offered on short-term lets in the Boverton Road Precinct.

It gave local entrepreneurs the chance to try out a business idea without the extra risk of a long-term commitment – and the result has been that some have established themselves solidly enough to decide to stay – or even to move to bigger premises.

Stuart Sloan, who runs Sloan & Co in the town, was very upbeat about the way the town has developed in recent years.

He said: "Llantwit Major has a lot to offer, and I often get people in who have decided to travel here from Bridgend or Porthcawl to have a look at the town – and they are always impressed."

These visitors have also learnt to take advantage of the regular train service along the Vale of Glamorgan line – from Bridgend to Cardiff, via Llantwit and Barry.

Alternatively, if they choose to travel by car, they find that parking is relatively easy – and free.

In fact, this year will be the first that the 'walking community' has been targeted with information, and this higher profile is attracting more visitors, because Llantwit is a great starting point for walks, whether along the coast or through the rural Vale.

In Llantwit, there are a number of independent retailers who own their own business, give genuine personal service, and can react quickly to the needs of their customers.

They are also willing

to invest in the town – something Stephen Segal of the Sewing Box did 18 months ago when the business moved to new premises.

He said: "We had great support from local people and are very grateful for that".

He feels that there is definitely a sense of confidence about Llantwit, and about trade in general.

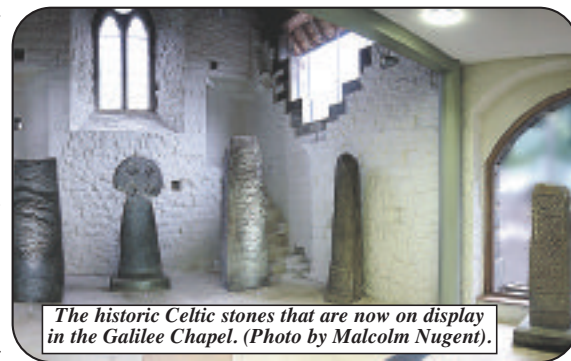
He added: "We stock curtains that are priced to suit all pockets, but we are seeing more people choose higher ticket items."

The Farmer's Pantry recently relocated from its ancient butcher's shop near the church to a new unit in the more modern part of town.

New fixtures and fittings mean that it is another business that is investing in the town.

Llantwit is big enough to support a wide range of shops, but small enough to give a real sense of community.

Events such as the Victorian fayre, the Community Day and Christmas events are always



The historic Celtic stones that are now on display in the Galilee Chapel. (Photo by Malcolm Nugent).

well supported, and it brings out the best in the town. When The Guardian wrote so favourably about Llantwit, it treated the town as a hidden gem.

That might be a consequence of a London-based newspaper assuming that south Wales is far from where the action is.

However, it is fair to say that there are people in the Vale and beyond who don't realise just what the town has to offer.

The coming of spring, with (hopefully) warmer weather, is a great time to take a close look!



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British Legion praise for Barry Air Cadets

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron were thanked for raising over £2,200 for the Royal British Legion by Keith Harris (president, Royal British Legion Barry branch) and Roy Goodwin (Poppy Appeal coordinator).

The cadets were a familiar sight, selling poppies at Tesco in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day.

The appeal is the British Legion's biggest fundraising campaign with every poppy sold supporting the British Armed Forces past and present, and their families.

Roy Goodwin said: "I thank all the cadets for their hard work and fantastic support for the Poppy Appeal; especially as the Barry Air Cadets were the top fundraising squadron in south Wales. This money will go a long way to support current and former members of our armed forces".

The Cadets who helped the appeal were: Pippa Cowles, Ellie Poulakis, Rachel Carbis, Jake Paterson, Georgina, Ellie and Zena Poulakis, Steph Jones, Jake Paterson and Rhys Horton.

As well as fundraising the Cadets are looking forward to flying, gliding, shooting, sports, overseas trips, leadership and adventure training in a full and action packed training programme.

The 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13 - 18 years old. The squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm - 9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall); contact 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org



Air Cadets with Roy Goodwin and Keith Harris and their Royal British Legion certificate of appreciation.



Roy Goodwin presents Georgina Poulakis with the certificate of appreciation with Keith Harris.

Llanharry concert raises £1,620 for Macmillan...

AN amazing total of £1,620.04 was raised by Pontyclun & District Macmillan Fundraising support group on their variety night held at Llanharry Workingmen's Club on April 4.

The evening's entertainment, attended by 200 people, was provided with a musical medley by Y Pant through Emily Prewett year-8, Lowri Morris year-10, Lucie-Anne Davies year-12; poems by our very own Julie Croad; keyboard player Stephen Preston of Arius

Music provided a selection of popular hits accompanied by his community choir O2Five; comedy by the fabulous Steve Saint; local male choir The Minnesingers and popular vocalist, Danial Cadogan.

The event was staged to mark the first anniversary of the group, through the generosity of the local community, who have now raised to date nearly £8,000.

Last year in Wales, the total raised was £2.3 million. However, in Wales, Macmillan spent £3.6 million on services provided.

To find out more on how you can help the

charity, call 0300 1000 200, or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising.

If you wish to become a member of Pontyclun & District Macmillan Fundraising Support Group contact one of the following: Edwina Clark: 07710198617, Pat Clash: 07974183987, Julie Croad: 07933944165, Jeanie Heaviesides: 01443 230249, Ann Bennett: 01443 225187 or Yvonne Ruggles: 01443 224845.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors. In Llanharry: Worgans, The Spar, Missy Moo, Llanharry News. In Pontyclun: Pure Indulgence, The Deli, The Card Shop,

Tranquility Therapies, Rybec Homes Estate Agents, Glitz & Glamour. In Talbot Green: Classic Cleaners, Mend a Shue, Trustmark, Missy Boutique. In Llantrisant: The Longbow, The Butcher's Arms, The Potting Shed, Llantrisant Leisure Centre, Crabtree & Evelyn, Leekes, and The Rotary of Llantrisant.

We especially would like to thank the members and officers of Llanharry Workingmen's Club without whose support the evening would not have been possible.

EDWINA CLARK

Mayor's coffee morning for ValePlus

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, recently hosted a coffee morning at the Civic Offices for ValePlus, a local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability.

A total of £582 was raised which will be used to upgrade the computer equipment at the centre in High Street, Barry.

Steve Thomas, Director of ValePlus thanked the mayor and her consort Jayne Norman for their support, those who attended and all the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to contribute to the success of the morning.



ABOVE: ValePlus trustees with the Mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson and her consort, Jayne Norman.

Stagecoach students celebrate with awards

THE end of the spring term at Stagecoach Theatre Arts was a "tremendous success", as all students performed to great acclaim.

Over the course of four days, seven performances were staged at Maesteg Town Hall, with an astonishing 310 children involved, said Stagecoach principal Helene Reynolds.

"We are so very proud of all the children for their wonderful work this term. The term ended with five memorable performances of the musical *Shakespeare Rocks* by our main school students; and *Disney Magic* showcases our younger early stages children.

"A terrific achievement from all involved." Alongside the performances, 165 children took group musical theatre Performance Arts Awards, with examiners in attendance to assess and award this well recognised qualification.

"An incredible 51 children also received a special award and certificate for on-going



Students get ready to perform in the showcase.

effort and commitment." Awards are presented to every child, every year from three years attendance onwards. Students Kirsty Richards, Ella Roberts and Alyx James, all received an award marking 10 years.

Two special awards went to two remarkable students for an exceptional 13 years! Students Jessica Lamin and Siwan Wyn Henderson joined Stagecoach as early stages students aged just four and five years old.

For information, or to enrol for the summer term call Helene or Rob Reynolds on 01446 772727 or visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend



Jessica Lamin and Siwan Wyn Henderson proudly display their 13-year awards.



Students were excited to receive their achievement awards.

Following in Christ's path

CLERGY in Barry are bringing the Easter story to life, with a modern twist - by cleaning shoes in the town centre this Maundy Thursday.

Rector Ben Andrews of Cadoxton-juxta-Barry is carrying out these 'Acts of Kindness', mark Christ's journey to the cross, along with Rev Peter Taylor and

Deacon Sam Taylor of the Crossway Methodist Church in Kings Square, Barry, (Thursday, April 17), from 11.30am until 1pm.

Tomorrow (Good Friday), hundreds are expected to join the two-mile 'walk of witness' through the streets of Barry to mark Christ's journey to the cross. They will follow a 10ft wooden

cross and stop at five points of prayer and hear readings from the Bible about Christ's crucifixion.

The walk, which is in its third year, is organised by the Churches of Barry, made up of 11 of the town's churches of various denominations. The first walk was led by the Archbishop of Wales.

Rising Stars are new on the local scene

The new 'Rising Stars' group met Vale Mayor, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, her consort and Jane Hutt AM for the Vale at the library in King's Square Barry last week.

The new ethnic minority group

aims to develop cultural opportunities for the whole community and supports a charity in Kenya.

The group promotes new opportunities for the local community, with support from Race Equality First and Vale for Africa.

Memorial match for football club stalwart

A MEMORIAL football match will be held at Jenner Park on Easter Sunday at 2pm, to celebrate the life of William (Billy) Hales who died last October at the age of 52.

He was a founder member of Cadoxton Con's FC (now Cadoxton Barry FC) and was football secretary up until 2004.

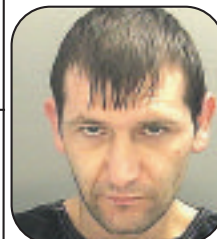
Footnote by a past chairman: Cadoxton Con's FC has had many names in their vibrant past 20 odd years; to Jeff White Motors back to Cadoxton Con's FC; to Cadoxton FC and now Cadoxton Barry FC with the merger with the

then Barry Town Supporters Club. Billy was the football secretary for the Club until his resignation in 2004.

Billy Hales will always be remembered as a stalwart, guiding and supporting the club in their early years. Our sympathies go out to all his family and friends for their loss.

The family and Cadoxton Barry FC invite all back to Cadoxton Conservative Club and extend a cordial welcome to all friends, players and supporters for food, entertainment and refreshments, and abundant reminiscence after the memorial match.

POLICE SEEK LOCAL MAN



LYNDON INCH.

A man from the Barry area is wanted by police in connection with a prison recall.

Lyndon Inch is wanted for a recall to prison that was initiated on Thursday April 3. Anyone with information is asked to call South Wales Police on 101 or alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or email them at www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information

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Funding for South Wales to highlight history of steel

THE Glamorgan Archives in Cardiff, which serves Bridgend, the Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff will benefit from Welsh Government funding to open up access to their collections relating to the steel industry.

Minister for culture and sport, John Griffiths AM, made the announcement last week, as part of the latest round of grant funding for Welsh libraries, archives and museums.

A Welsh Government grant of £20,000, along with £56,000 from the National Cataloguing grant scheme, will be awarded to five

archive services across Wales to make details available online of the archives of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, British Steel Collection and the Brymbo Steel works collection.

The other archives to benefit are the Richard Burton Archives, Archives and Records Council of Wales, Flintshire Record Office and Wrexham Archives. This is part of the 'Wales Showing our Metal' project.

Mr Griffiths said: "This welcome investment will enable local museums, archives and libraries to develop their services, improve facilities and encourage greater use by the public.

"It will help promote our rich culture and heritage and ensure

that more people can access and enjoy our collections.

"The steel industry has played a key role in the development of Wales and the 'Wales Showing our Metal' project will enable researchers of all ages to understand the legacy of the steel industry and its ongoing impact on Welsh communities.

"Without the support of archive services and this investment, these records could have been lost to future generations."

The Minister also outlined how £2.2m funding will be used to develop, promote access to and encourage use of the rich and diverse collections on offer at museums, archives and libraries across the country.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00342/ADV
Proposal/Cynnyg: Replacement fascia sign with trough light
Location/Lleoliad: Spar Stores, 73, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00335/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Change of use from A1 fishmongers and butchers to A3 licensed tea rooms and bistro plus new shopfront
Location/Lleoliad: 8, Royal Buildings, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00336/ADV
Proposal/Cynnyg: New shop fascia for A3 use
Location/Lleoliad: 8, Royal Buildings, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00353/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Removal of a hedge located at the rear boundary wall of the property adjoining Station Road; removal of the existing wall deemed to be in disrepair by Vale of Glamorgan Highways and Engineering department and like for like replacement of wall.
Location/Lleoliad: 44, Westbourne Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00354/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: To re engrave (by hand carving) the lettering (approximately 142 words) on the stone tablet and Cenotaph Cross of the Llantwit Major War Memorial
Location/Lleoliad: Major, Church Street, Llantwit Major

Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00364/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: New door opening
Location/Lleoliad: The Cavalry Barracks, United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle, St. Donats

Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00378/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: A new sign 'Penarth Pier Pavilion' above main entrance to the pavilion
Location/Lleoliad: Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00354/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: To re engrave (by hand carving) the lettering (approximately 142 words) on the stone tablet and Cenotaph Cross of the Llantwit Major War Memorial
Location/Lleoliad: War Memorial Llantwit Major, Church Street, Llantwit Major

Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Affecting The White Hart, Grade II, The Telephone Call Box outside The White Hart, Grade II, The Old Swan Inn, Grade II* Tudor Tavern, Grade II and 1 Church Street, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Diddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00343/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Drainage infrastructure relating to outline planning permission 2010/00686/EAO
Location/Lleoliad: Land to the north of the railway line off Pentir Y De, Rhooose

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00344/RES
Proposal/Cynnyg: Reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 224 dwellings
Location/Lleoliad: Land to the North of the railway line off Pentir Y De, Rhooose

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00351/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Residential lead, mixed use scheme comprising up to 600 new homes, 6000 sq.m. of employment floorspace (B1), complimentary retail (A1), food and drink (A3) and community facilities (including possible surgery use), all with associated open space, landscaping and access
Location/Lleoliad: Walters Farm, Weycock Cross, Barry

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/00343/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Drainage infrastructure relating to outline planning permission 2010/00686/EAO
Location/Lleoliad: Land to the north of the railway line off Pentir Y De, Rhooose

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8 Proposed development at Walters Farm, Weycock Cross, Barry.

I give notice that Waltersland (Barry) Limited, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Residential lead, mixed use scheme comprising up to 600 new homes, 6000 sq.m. of employment floorspace (B1), complimentary retail (A1), food and drink (A3) and community facilities (including possible surgery use), all with associated open space, landscaping and access.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the non Technical Summary at a charge of £5.00, full environmental statement at a charge of £100.00 (paper copy) or £15.00 (CD copy) from Arup, 4 Pierhead Street, Capital Waterside, Cardiff, CF10 4QP so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 8 May, 2014.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 8 May 2014 quoting reference 2014/00351/OUT.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8 Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Walters Farm, Weycock Cross, Barry

Hysbysir trwy hyn Waltersland (Barry) Limited, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Residential lead, mixed use scheme comprising up to 600 new homes, 6000 sq.m. of employment floorspace (B1), complimentary retail (A1), food and drink (A3) and community facilities (including possible surgery use), all with associated open space, landscaping and access

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Members of the public may obtain copies of the non Technical Summary at a charge of £5.00, full environmental statement at a charge of £100.00 (paper copy) or £15.00 (CD copy) from Arup, 4 Pierhead Street, Capital Waterside, Cardiff, CF10 4QP so long as stocks last.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 24 April, 2014.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chulidant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 24 April 2014 am ddwynn'r cyfeirnod 2014/00229/EAO.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 17 April, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Old court will have 52 homes to let

NEWYDD Housing Association is calling on local people to attend an open day on April 24 to register interest in renting one of 72 new affordable homes in Barry.

They will be available to rent at the former Barry Magistrates Court at Thompson Street and former Marine Hotel on Barry Island from October. Details and

images of these new homes will be available to view at the Newydd office on 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL from 11am - 7pm on Thursday April 24.

The court development will have six three-bedroom family homes, 32 two-bedroom apartments and 14 one-bedroom apartments.

The former Marine Hotel on Barry Island will offer 17 one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom apartments.

Former
Barry
Magistrates
Court
perspective.



Marine
Hotel,
Barry
Island
perspective.

Latest planning...

United Welsh Housing Association - **Caerleon Road, Dinas Powys** - Outline application for residential development (of up to 70 dwellings) and associated works.
Mr Riccardo Beghini - **6 Nantlais, Corntown** - Two storey extension.
Mr George and Mrs Pamela Horne - **31 Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major** - Proposed new entrance porch and cloakroom.
Mr Andrew Rickard - **Sunnycroft, Penylan Road, St Brides Major** - Proposed canopy and store.
Mr Ian Beresford - **Rose Cottage, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major** - Planning application to regularise the position of the proposed classic car garage as being constructed on site, as previously approved under planning reference 2013/001150/FUL.
Mr Haydn Scoging - **The Hawthorns, 3 Romilly Road, Rhooose** - Conversion of existing outbuildings previously used as kennels to five self-contained cat units capable of housing a maximum of 12 cats in total, plus the erection of one self-contained cat unit capable of housing a maximum of two cats for isolation purposes.
UK Hydro Slides Ltd - **Waterpark House, Green Lane, Llantwit Major** - Redevelopment of established industrial area for residential purposes (option 1), five dwellings;
Redevelopment of established industrial area for residential purposes (option 2), five dwellings.
Mr Stephen Mackenzie - **26 Clos y Fulfran, Barry** - First floor extension above double garage.
Mr John Ferry - **Land to the rear of 42, Village Farm, Bonvilton** - Dismantle/remove in sections, one ash, two sycamores, one pine and one Wellingtonia.
Mr Huw Childs - **Village House, Colwinston** - Reduce height by 30 per cent and prune to reshape top of crown to one Irish Yew tree located in front garden.
Mr Roger Lavery - **7 Adar y Mor, Barry Island** - White gable and conservatory.
Mr and Mrs Giancarlo Cancelliere - **44 Hastings Avenue, Penarth** - Loft conversion including hip to gable and dormer to rear.
Mr Robert Sullivan - **15 Millfield Drive, Cowbridge** - Replacement of existing glazed conservatory 5m x 3m at rear of house with brick built single storey extension 6m x 3.5m.

Sponsors win their own race!

Report by Brian Lee

MESSRS William by Irish jockey Corrigan and Roger Paddy Gerity, by a Willcox, who short head in a sponsored, the controversial and intermediate race at the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Point - To - Point Steeplechases last Saturday, had plenty to smile about when it was judged that their seven-year-old bay gelding *Patrickom Boru*, partnered by Llanharan's Evan David, had beaten the odds-on favourite *Mr Mercurial*, ridden

landed the ladies' open race, are well known characters in Welsh hunt-racing circles.

Tenby's John Mathias took the day's riding honours with a double on *Once In A LifeTime* (Members) and *Canshetrain* (Restricted). The former had 10 lengths to spare over *Get Off The Table* and the latter won by three lengths from *Supreme Regime*.

Nick Williams, of the Ogmere Pony Trekking Centre, who three weeks earlier had ridden his 150th winner over the course, this time chalked-up his first as a trainer when he won the young horse maiden on Nigel Hopkins's *Billy Congo* which scored by five lengths from *JimJim Mac Cool*.

The aged maiden race went to David Brace's *Cool Steel*, who jumped the last almost alongside runner-up *Barney Dunne*. Winning rider James Tudor, assistant trainer to Cowbridge's Evan Williams, said: "He gave me a lovely ride."

Lauberhorn, who made it three wins on the bounce when landing the ladies' open race under regular pilot Anna Metekohy came home 25 lengths ahead of *Little Miss Monty with Teenage Kicks* just half-a-length away in third place.

Anna said: "After winning our last two races I felt a lot more pressure this time but he did the job well." *Lauberhorn*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, at one time was trained by Evan Williams.

The men's open race was won by Mrs Mel Worgan's *Benefit Of Youth*, a former inmate of Aberthaw trainer Tim Vaughan's yard and who was ridden by Bradley Gibbs, who earlier in the week had chalked-up his 50th winner.

Next Saturday, the *Llangineir Hunt Point-To-Point* will be held at the *Dunraven Stud*, Pyle, near Bridgend. First race 2pm.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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ATHLETIC IN A HOME LOSS TO BLACKWOOD

ON Saturday Barry Athletic Cricket Club got their season off to a losing start in a friendly against Blackwood.

Barry won the toss and asked Blackwood to bat on a green wicket and got off to a great start reducing their visitors to 22 for 3 in the 7th over after Steve Jones took the first 3 wickets with catches from Aaron Smith, Nathan Baker and Ashley Baker.

A 73 run partnership between Wilkinson and Evans followed with Evans hitting captain John Gee's first ball of the season into the pavilion and smashing a window.

Gee ended up with 3 wickets - Evans for 46, caught by Aaron Smith, Mathews caught behind by Nathan Baker for 8 and Byrne Caught by Steve Jones for 25.

The other wicket takers were Ellis with the wickets of Roberts and Ford and David Goodway with the wickets of Wilkinson and Najmi.

Blackwood were all out for 188 in the 37th over. In reply, Barry lost the wickets of Aaron Smith, Nathan Baker and Craig Brock with only 41 on the board. A partnership of 26 came between Goodway and Ashley Baker before the former was out for 40 with 67 on the board.

Baker became the 5th Wicket to go with the score on 77. There was then a 40 run partnership between Ellis and Hugh Smith before 3 wickets fell for no runs. Ellis's 34 included 3 sixes. Hugh Smith scored 4 and Steve Jones 2.

The 9th wicket fell on 123 before a late cameo from John Gee who hit 12 not out in 6 balls with one 6 and 1 four.

The last man out was Ross Taylor-Gibbs for 4, Barry Athletic all out for 136.

Blackwood 188 AO (Wilkinson 49, Evans 46, S.Jones 3 for 20, J.Gee 3 for 52, S.Ellis 2 for 36, D.Goodway 2 for 23)

Barry Athletic 136 AO (D Goodway 40, S.Ellis 34, A Baker 13, J.Gee 12 no).

On Sunday, Barry entertained Machen in a friendly with Machen batting first on a beautiful sunny afternoon at The Island, Oval.

Machen got off to a bad start and were 4 for 2 after losing the wickets of Hatton to Frost for 0 and Tibbs to Phillips for 0.

A 44 run partnership was built before the 3rd wicket went with Morris going for 8 bowled by Scott Malpas.

Sinps went 11 runs later for a fine 44 off the bowling of Rhys Hatton. The 5th wicket to go was Dinsmoore for 17 bowled by Hatton with the score 72.

With the score on 77 Dinsmoore went for 1, bowled Malpas

Young Sam Hopkins captured the final wicket and Machen were 82 all out.

Barry's reply got off to a sluggish start with Williams and Eastman opening and after 7 overs only 8 runs were on the board.

Two wickets fell in successive balls, Williams for 1 and Jones first ball for a duck. Eastman was next to go for 2 with the score on 8.

There was then an increase in the run rate as first Scott Malpas with 15 and Ashley Baker with 33 partnered Sam Hopkins. They brought the side home with Barry finishing on 83 for 6.

Machen 82 AO (Singh 44, S. Malpas 2 for 13, R.Hatton 2 for 20, S.Hopkins 1 for 1)

Barry Athletic 83 for 6 (A. Baker 33, S. Hopkins 25, S.Malpas 15, J. Dinsmoore 3 for 16)

Junior nets take place at Cadoston Sports Hall on Mondays from 6pm and 7pm all welcome. Barry Athletic are also looking for sponsorship if you are interested please contact Mark Rees via e-mail at markrees509@hotmail.com

Invite to Barry Central Bowling Club weekend

YOU will have noticed that over the last few weeks with help from The GEM editorial staff, there have been notifications for new members to join Barry Central at Gladstone Gardens this coming season.

We have had a good response, but we can always do with more people involved.

We have been distributing leaflets in several areas of Barry and have been inviting people to our coffee morning on Saturday.

We are a small club membership-wise and the

majority of the membership are now retired, so we need some fresh new blood to keep the club as an ongoing venture with aspirations to do very well again this coming season having lost narrowly on promotion last year.

We would like anyone who would like to try the game out to come to the club at Gladstone Gardens on Saturday, April 19 and/or Sunday, April 20 from 2pm and have a try out on the green.

All you will need are flat shoes or trainers as everything else you will need would be provided by the club. Our qualified WBA coaches will be available to assist

and help anyone that needs it and the club bar will be open.

The afternoons will be a casual affair with no formality with regards to dress ie whites, as it will be looked at as a "getting to know you session". All ages are welcome, and an afternoon of fun is anticipated.

Should anyone need to find out more, they can ring the ladies' secretary, Jennifer Morgan, on 01446 412976 or the men's chairman, Haydn Spencer, on 01446 677051, or just turn up on the days in question. We look forward to seeing you all.

G Thomas

Dragons roar at tournament

RED DRAGON junior netball under-11 squad competed recently in the Cardiff & Vale under-11 netball championships at the House of Sport in Cardiff.

Even though they had been unbeaten in the league all season the girls were very nervous playing in this huge tournament.

The girls had nine matches to play and after competing all day their results were eight wins and a draw. They were then crowned Cardiff & Vale under-11 county champions and will now represent the area in the Welsh under-11 finals in May.

Talent scouts from Welsh Netball were also at the event and five of the girls were named in the top 20 players of the tournament - they were

Georgia, Ella, Ellie, Mariella, Maisie.

The under-13 squad also took part in the Cardiff & Vale under-13 netball championships, and with new players added to the squad, had an excellent tournament, finishing fourth out of 11 teams - an amazing result.

Three of the girls were also talent spotted by Welsh Netball - they were Caitlin, Maddison and Lucy.

Congratulations to all the girls who played extremely well and thank you to all the coaches, Mel Helleman, Sharon Allred, Sian Seaward and Jo Wheeler.

Anybody interested in Red Dragons netball please contact Mel Helleman on 07793 652300, where there are classes from Reception/year 1 and infants through to under-10, under-11, under-13, under-15 and under-17.

MH

TEN-GOAL THRILLER WRAPS UP PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB SEASON

PENARTH HC VETERANS 5 STRATFORD VETERANS 5

ALTHOUGH the 2013-14 Davis Wood Hockey League campaign ended a couple of weeks earlier, there was still business to attend to for Penarth Hockey Club.

With the annual AGM and club dinner already in the rear view mirror, it was left to the Veterans XI to wrap up the 2013-14 season with a match against a touring Stratford side led by former Penarth player Ian 'Pug' Powell.

The visitors arrived in Barry on the back of a heavy defeat the day before, and still appeared to be suffering the effects of a night out in Cardiff as Penarth dominated the early possession. However, an inability to convert pressure into anything resembling a chance on goal allowed Stratford to remain in the game, and ultimately make the Vale side pay.

Miscommunication in the Penarth defence allowed the tourists two soft goals midway through the half and, when a penalty corner found its way in at the near post, Stratford had been spotted a three-goal headstart before the Bears realised that the game was slipping away.

Fortunately, a goal from Marc Sawyer minutes before the break, allowed the home side to remain in touch, but there was a lot of stern talking once the very untraditional half-time refreshments had been imbibed.

The words appeared to have the desired effect as

LOCAL TEAM IS GLOBAL TEAM!

PUPILS at the south Wales college of which George Bernard Shaw once said: "This is what God would have built if he had the money" are leading the way in a community football league in Bridgend, with perhaps the most diverse five-a-side football squad in the UK.

The team, Atlantic FC from Atlantic College, joined the Friday night Leisure Leagues competition in Bridgend, and have quickly adapted to life - currently sitting top of their league, and the multi-cultural side are being seen as a shining example of what five-a-side football should be about.

The team comes from different corners of the globe; the coach, Mike Eaton, is from Botswana, the captain from Holland, with the other players from places such as Bangladesh, Norway and Mauritius, Scotland, Guatemala and Italy.

Mike was full of praise for his squad and admitted that such diversity was part of not only the college's ethos, but also helped the



ABOVE: Atlantic FC draws its players from across the globe.

team itself: "The experience of the boys is as diverse as their nationalities. Some have played for junior professional squads in their home countries, playing intensively up to five times a week.

The characters have clearly helped the side, who have adapted brilliantly to the competition and sit top after initially finding it difficult: "We also have been finding the physicality of football here often surprisingly different from our African, South American and some of the European styles,"

he said. Mike Eaton admitted there is a reason for wanting Friday night victories: "After the Friday games, we head back to school and there is a popular pub on the way.

"When we win we all get dropped off there and when everyone asks how we did, of course we beam and tell them the score. When we lose however, the boys can't stand to get off the bus with all the girls inquiring how we did and have to say that we were beaten. It's our incentive I guess!"

New biography of Welsh great Robbie James

'ROBBIE JAMES: A Life in Football' by Gary Wharton details the career of a truly great name in Welsh football - Robbie James, known to most simply as 'Robbie'.

Making his breakthrough at the Vetch with the Swans, he was a major contributor to the club's extraordinary rise up the leagues and into what would today be the equivalent of the Premiership: he was there for it all.

Elsewhere, Robbie remained in the top flight and played for both Stoke City and QPR before moving to Leicester City

and on to Bradford City, the latter where the fans voted him their favourite player during his two seasons with them.

He then joined Cardiff City and enjoyed success with the Blues under his former Swans' team mate Eddie May, winning promotion as champions and the Welsh Cup in a marvellous 'double' winning season still remembered by the fans.

Stepping down into the Welsh League, Robbie wound down his playing career and played for Merthyr Tydfil, Llanelli AFC and Barry Town. His tragic death while playing for Llanelli is also documented, with new accounts from those present there that terrible night.

It is the story of a true footballing great.

Campaign for a 3G football pitch

FOOTBALLERS from FC Barry campaigning for a 3G football pitch in the town are being supported by MP Alun Cairns.

Mr Cairns said: "It is wholly unacceptable that Barry doesn't have a 3G pitch. This state-of-the-art facility would enable football to be played at all times in all weather conditions."

Shaun White, FC Barry's coach said: "In modern day football, this is an essential facility. We regularly take the players to the House of Sport in Cardiff to play on their 3G pitch and the response from the team is magnificent. It is wrong that we have to travel to Cardiff, when there is such a large interest in football here.

"We are determined to work with Alun Cairns and the Sports Council to deliver a 3G pitch to our team and other teams across Barry."

Penarth again took control of the opening exchanges after the break, but it was Stratford who again scored first, this time as the result of a double deflection that steered the ball past the hapless Matt Birch.

Fired by the misfortune, the home side went straight back down the other end, where Sawyer was able to add his second of the game, but Stratford soon returned the deficit to three goals by overwhelming the home defence and allowing their centre forward to deflect a delicate chip over Birch and into the roof of the net.

With less than ten minutes remaining, the game looked over, but Penarth refused to give in and, when a deflection at the other end produced an own goal and made the score 5-3, hopes were raised further. With Stratford trying to play out time, Penarth were afforded more space and a quick hit out from the back produced a flowing move that was rounded out by Derek Wooding's measured finish.

Just three minutes were left on the clock at this point, and Stratford again tried to keep the ball, but Penarth's tenacity allowed one final attack, which Sawyer coolly completed with a shot into the far corner.

On reflection, a draw was probably a fitting result for a well-contested game, and neither side complained as they retired to the bar.

AGM and Dinner

The club AGM produced few surprises, with all officers being returned and Mark Thomas and Nick Pratt retaining the captaincy of the 1st and 2nd XIs respectively.

Dave Watkins was made a life member after many years of service in the front line, and thanks were offered to kit sponsor Scafftag for their ongoing support.

The annual dinner, staged 24 hours later at Penarth Athletic Club, allowed those in attendance to reflect on a successful season, with the 1st XI finishing fourth in De Cymru & The Marches 1 and the 2nd XI improving to sixth overall in De Cymru 2.

A couple of entertaining captain's reports ended with Chris Baker and Craig Llewellyn picking up the respective player of the year accolades, with Baker unsurprisingly netting the top goalscorer trophy after a prolific campaign.

Sam Wooding was awarded the young player of the year nomination after making his mark in a first full season with the 1st XI. Clubman of the year was rightly awarded to the tireless Graeme Jones for his efforts as fixture secretary.

As usual, the formalities ended with an impassioned address from president Alan Carter that had the audience alternating between attentive silence and knowing laughter, before the focus was turned towards 2014-15.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the Juniors in action between 6pm-7pm and Senior between 7pm-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk)

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School of hard knocks for Vale TKD students

THREE talented young Taekwondo students have recently returned from the European Taekwondo Championships in Davos, Switzerland, with an array of medals.

The event attracts around 1,500 competitors from 20 countries and has a juniors competition.

Ashton Curnick (13), Menna Burmingham (10) and Harri Burmingham (9) are all students of Joseph Schembri, at Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness. Joseph is also the Wales Taekwondo team coach, so was especially delighted to see his three students being selected to represent their country.

Harri competed in the peewee division in both the points stop and continuous contests. He drew the same Russian opponent in both, fighting bravely throughout. Unfortunately, he took a heavy back kick to the ribs which bruised him badly, forcing him to pull out.

He was taken to the local hospital where he received first-rate treatment and after an overnight stay he was able to return to the competition to support his fellow junior team mates.

Ashton competed in the lightweight points stop, fighting against Polish and Russian opponents.

In his second round, he took a hard punch to the nose which continued to bleed, leading doctors to initially fear it was broken.

However, he courageously fought on,

Harri Burmingham, Ashton Curnick, and Menna Burmingham are pictured proudly wearing their medals.



just narrowly missing a place in the final, but putting in a skilful performance to clinch the bronze medal.

Menna competed in the lightweight points stop and continuous contests, reaching the final in both.

Menna fought strongly but like her team mates, she lost out to a Russian opponent, the same one in each final, coming through to win the silver medal in both events.

This is a huge confidence booster for

Menna, who has only recently moved into the lightweight division and is just finding her feet in this new category.

Joseph Schembri commented: "As a coach, it is really gratifying to see Menna, Harri and Ashton growing in confidence with every tournament they enter and this is mirrored in the success they are now enjoying with their first venture into the international scene."

For further details of JSTKD, visit www.jstkdc.co.uk JS

'Let's go walkies to celebrate our 21st!'

BARRIE changed his planned walk for Penarth and District Ramblers at short notice because of bad weather conditions at altitude and instead took his group of five to Llanharan to visit the wind farm.

First, they mislaid their way in Llantrisant Forest, which was soon put right and upon reaching Ffordd y Bryniau or the Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk, the mist swirled and the tall wind turbines were lost in the middle of it, with only a deep thud and a whoosh of air indicating their presence.

Descending via Cwm Rhydymilwyr to Llanbad-fawr, followed by a climb to Mynydd Coedbychan, after a swift lunch, the group headed back downhill by way of a stony track to their start.

With Penarth and District Ramblers celebrating our 21st year, a new programme containing some exciting walks has been launched.

The walks, as usual, vary in length and during the spring and summer months there will be a linear bus ramble from Dan yr Ogof back to Defynnog, a tour of the Nash Lighthouse and a local night ramble through the midnight hour.

You will be able to take part in the long distance Three Castles Walk or climb the peaks of Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Fan y Big and Cribyn, or something less strenuous in the shape of taking the footpath across the toll booths at the old Severn Bridge.

There will be a railway outing to Church Stretton, which lies under the famous Long Mynd for a walk in the Shropshire Hills or a more

leisurely walk along the River Usk to try and spot the elusive kingfisher. Or another train ramble, this time from Cardiff down to Ferryside, which has glorious views across Carmarthen Bay and Llansteffan Castle, to walk back along part of the 870-mile Wales Coast Path, this time back to Burry Port.

For those who are interested in history and old churches, why not come along for the trip to Garway Hill and a visit to Kilpeck Church, famous for its 12th century Norman carvings along, with a walk in the stunning Herefordshire countryside.

You are also invited to climb several mountains in the Talybont area and maybe take in some music with a relaxing drink to soak up some of the atmosphere in the pubs along the Brecon Canal during the 30th Brecon Jazz Festival; or join the group for a trek to Y Gaer Fawr and Fach, massive Iron Age hill forts draped over the contours of the hillsides in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Hopefully, there will be something in this programme to suit everyone, so for enquiries regarding membership or programmes, please contact Pam on 029 2025 5102.

On April 19, meet at 9.30am at Wenwae War Memorial for a 6.5-mile moderate circular walk taking in Tinkinswood and St Llythans burial chambers; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On Easter Monday April 21, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk at Twmpa and Hay Bluff in the Black Mountains; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

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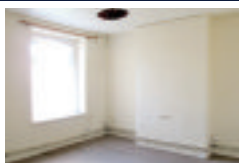
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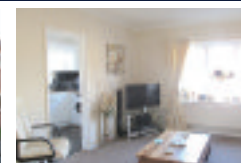
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Newydd Housing Association
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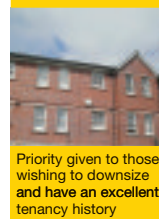
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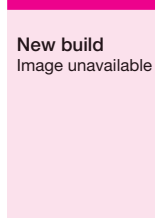
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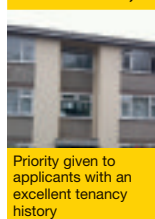
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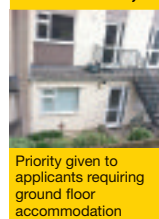
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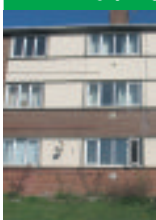
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D67



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D59



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D63



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E52



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3 Bedrooms, Southerly Aspect
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C76



Wine Street, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
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E43



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E47

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D61



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D63

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Three Bedrooms, Conservatory,
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C73 - £550 PCM

Queen Street, Barry
West End Location, Three Bedrooms,
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C63 - £625 PCM

Picketston Close, St Athan
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D63 - £650 PCM

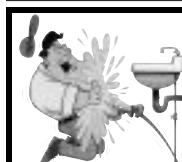
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WILD Janet

Peacefully in Holme Towers, Penarth on Friday, 11th April 2014, widow of David, sister of Sarah and Simon, stepmother to Sally and Tessa and grandmother to Sean and Noah.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service in All Saints Church, Barry on Monday, 28th April 2014 at 10.30am, followed by a committal service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 12 noon. Strictly family flowers only please, donations to either Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Towers, Penarth or The Dogs Trust Bridgend may be sent to the funeral home.

FITCHETT Alan

Suddenly at home on 9th April 2014 aged 83 years. Beloved husband to the late Ollie, much loved father to Andrew & Haydn, father in law to Carol & Usha, grandfather of Lori, Jack & Luc, brother to the late Gomer and the late Joan. Will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service in the chapel on Friday 25th April 2014 at 1.45pm, followed by a committal service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 3pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers to The Macmillan Nurses may be sent to the funeral home.

SCREEN Carmen née Williams

Peacefully passed away on Monday, 7th April 2014 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Carmen of Ilminster Close, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Anthony Screen. A loved mother of Stephanie, Michael and mother-in-law of Neil Jennine. Cherished grandmother of George, Max and great grandmother of Logan. Dearly loved sister of Beryl and aunt of Wendy.

Carmen will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Wednesday, 23rd April, Service and Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium Port Road East, Barry where family and friends please meet 11.15am. Family flowers only.

LEIGH Clive

Peacefully on the 2nd April at Holme Tower, Clive of Llantwit Major with his family at his bedside. Clive was dearly loved by his wife Janet, and his children Heather, Mark, Kevin and Patricia, adored by his grandchildren Nicola, Leighton, Eleanor, Olivia, Matthew, William and Thomas and his great granddaughters Lauren and Keira, respected father-in-law of Tracy and Tracey.

Service at St. Illtud's Church at 1.00pm April 23rd, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Flowers may be sent to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street. 01446 792489
Please wear a Marie Curie daffodil at the service.

WEAVER David

It is with deepest sadness the family announces the sudden passing of David Weaver on 7th April. He will be greatly missed by his wife Susan, sons Darren and Adrian, granddaughter Kelly and daughter-in-law Louise.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until his Funeral Service at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 23rd April at 3pm.

Family flowers only by request, donations may be made at the service in lieu of flowers to the British Heart Foundation and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

barry-today.co.uk
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llantwit-major-today.co.uk
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bridgend-today.co.uk

WOOD Kenneth

Died peacefully at his home on April 5th, aged 83. He had lived in Llantwit Major for more than seven years. His family wish to express heartfelt thanks to those who cared so well for Ken recently. They would like to extend their gratitude to the warden of Crawshaw Court for her unfailing attention to Ken over a number of years and send their respects to the local friends who made him feel so at home in Llantwit.

A service will take place at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon on Thursday, April 17th.

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Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are for Wednesday, April 9: First Tony Ratcliff and Julian Potage; second Andy Robertshaw and John Whateley; third Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner.

Friday, April 11: First Tony Haworth and Robert Charlesworth; second John Beard and Graham Jones; equal third Bill Turner and Ray Smith, and Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall (7pm) there are gentle Bridge sessions on Thursdays (2pm to 5pm).

for the less experienced where help is readily given.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, April 10, were Colin Lewis and Stuart Davies, Linda Jenkins and Teresa Griffiths and Dilys Bowser.

A new course for beginners will begin in September. To register an interest call either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans 01656 880372.

Please note the charity cheese and wine night in aid of Bridgend Samaritans has been moved to Friday, May 9. All will be most welcome on this special night.

There is no Bridge on Friday, April 18, as it is Good Friday.

David Newman

Brynhill golf latest results

BRYNHILL golf club competition results for March 11: Turkey Trot winner Glynis Gould 24 points; March 18, Last Waltz, winner Jo Kirkpatrick 20 points; March 25, Easter Egg, Maria Gentile over back 9 from Glynis Gould 23 points.

April 1: Rabbits and Tigers, winners Jan Robertson and Andrea Page 83.5 nett; runners-up Diane Davies and Claire Herbert 84.5 nett.

April 8: GUW Challenge Bowls Silver Shirley Lewis 79 nett; Bronze Glynis Gould 81 nett.

CH

Big match looming for youth team

ON Saturday, April 12, Cowbridge RFC Youth entertained Cardiff HSOB and showed that they can move the ball freely between backs and forwards, as tries were run in by both.

In reality, there were too many scorers to mention but suffice to say it was a great team effort. Best wishes to the HSOB player who had to leave the field.

Now all attention turns to the evening of May 9 at 7pm at Cardiff Arms Park when the boys take on their great rivals this season, Taffs Well.

The result could not be more important, since the winners will take the league title and secure promotion. It should be a

fantastic occasion and not to be missed! It will also be a fitting end to players who have been with the youth for three seasons and seen the bad times and now the good.

That includes Rob Hackman, Connor Wyatt and captain Tom Cunningham. Good luck boys and bring the title home.

We also extend our congratulations to Llantwit Major on reaching the final of the Swalec Bowl, and send best wishes for the final.

Cowbridge 1st XV's next game is next Saturday, away to St Joseph's, followed by a home game against Llantwit Major on Wednesday, April 23, kick-off 6.45pm and then Llandaff at home on Saturday, April 26.

RV/RK

Bridge club holds its AGM

THE Barrivale Bridge club AGM was held on Tuesday, April 8 when the chairman, Denis Mottram, and sixth seat Dave Reed, were elected and secretary Celia Thomas was re-elected for a further two years on the committee.

The Bill Shore Trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Vivien Liles by the chairman.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 27th birthday with a buffet, birthday cake and a teams' event.

Results were as follows -

First: Jane Brook, Carol James, Peter Millar, Tim Barsby 38 IMPS; second: Denis Mottram, Noelle Bond, Alan Jones, Irene Thomas 31 IMPS.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

Barry Bees retain Tondur Cup – again!

BARRY Bees under-11s travelled to Tondur to play in the club's annual mini and junior rugby festival for the third year in succession.

On both previous occasions, the Bees had won without losing a game, so expectations were high. The weather was glorious and the event was, as ever, very well organised. Given the number of teams in the under-11 section, it was set to be a very long day.

The first match was against a well drilled Llanharan side; not unusually the Bees started slowly, with Llanharan scoring virtually from the kick off, as the Barry defence collected its thoughts.

The Bees responded well and Cole Saunders levelled the scores after a typical dashing break. Llanharan also showed they had pace in abundance and restored their lead with a breakaway try.

Barry were now fully awake and started to dominate, particularly in the forwards, and Cole scored two more tries to put Barry into the lead in the closing stages, but Llanharan refused to yield and scored a deserved equalising try with the last play of the game.

Next up were Maesteg Celtic; the Bees were now fully into their stride and dominated all facets of the game. Tries from Kie Scurlock, Jacob Pereira, Robson Mallam and another four from Cole took the Bees into an unassailable lead, but Maesteg scored two outstanding tries in response.

The next game was against the hosts, and would prove the decider. Tondur were unbeaten at this point and were playing quality rugby, but the Barry forwards were on fire, led by the impressive Rhys Lloyd and Isaac McBride.

Barry controlled the game from the outset, with an early try from the mercurial Cian Anderson, and two from the powerful Jake Frost putting the Bees in command.

Tondur responded well and scored next, but a dazzling try from scrum half Stephen Williams, who sprinted the length of the pitch after taking the ball from a line out on his own line, sealed the game.

A very powerful Bridgend Sports were up next; but the Bees maintained their momentum and the forwards, with Charlie Bale and Joe Davies ever prominent, dominated possession once again. With an abundance of ball the Barry backs could show off their skills, and Cian broke the line to score, with two more tries from the unstoppable Cole.

The day was wearing on, and the sunshine was sapping the energy from some, but Barry were still full of verve, and against Tonyrefail really began to cut loose.

There was no holding the Bees back, and with Ethan Watkins taking the ball forward with vigour and the excellent distribution and astute play of Spencer Williams, the tries flowed. Jacob, Cole and Cian scored another brace apiece, and Robson and Jake also pitched in for another decisive victory.

The final match was against Briton Ferry, and once again Barry were full of running. The whole team were now playing with huge commitment and hunger and as the opposition wilted, the Bees became all the stronger.

The quality of the rugby was outstanding and with three more tries from Cole, two from the very impressive Jacob, and one more for Cian, the Bees

were champions once again.

This was an excellent end to what has been a long season. The team has been in transition, but it is hugely rewarding to see the progress made by all the players.

Squad: Isaac McBride, Rhys Lloyd, Jake Frost, Charlie Bale, Ethan Watkins, Joe Davies, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Cole Saunders, Jacob Pereira, Spencer Williams, Robson Mallam, Kie Scurlock.

James McBride

The under-11 Barry Bees.



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Barry karate clubs join forces for a successful tournament



ABOVE: A proud day for Barry Kyokushin Karate Club.

On Saturday, April 12, Barry Kyokushin held a junior tournament, a first for chief instructor Senpai Phill Sedgmond.

It was an interclub tournament with local club Rising Sun Kyokushin.

With five categories of fighters, it was going to be a very busy and exciting day for all.

Barry Kyokushin girls dominated category one, taking away four trophies. It was incredibly close between the four girls and all fought very hard.

Josey Allen fought well but was just short of third place, taking home a runner-up position.

Third place went to Lucy Chick after an incredibly close fight. Leanne Lirio put in her all and came home with a well-deserved second place.

First place went to a determined Justine Bolanos, who has worked incredibly hard throughout her training.

Category two was a close category again, with Barry Kyokushin taking home two trophies and Rising Sun taking two.

The category was for the very young children, between the ages of five and six. It was the kids very first tournament and all did an incredible job.

Przemystaw Cienki from Barry Kyokushin took home the runner-up spot after a very determined two rounds.

Cerys Case, also from Barry, took third place after winning her second round.

But it was Rising Sun student Cody Roberts who took home second place, and Senpai Spencer's son Oscar Bennett who was first.

A well deserved win and a chip off the old block,

Senpai Spencer being a well respected world wide fighter.

Category three was a successful category for Barry Kyokushin, receiving three trophies. Sebastian Barczewski won third place after a close fight to the final. He fought very hard during all of his training and this is an fine accomplishment.

Jacob Murphy fought hard throughout the competition and took home second place after winning two rounds and a very close final.

First place was awarded to Ben Bolanos after three fine fights. Despite his fatigue from extended fights, Ben continued to fight hard and brought home a much-deserved first place.

Category four was the biggest category with 12 fighters.

Barry Kyokushin were unfortunate to not place in this category after some incredibly close fights.

Connor Denbury took third place after a close fight with Barry's Tomek Cyzynski.

Max Ladner took home second place after three demanding fights, but Ben Antony took home a deserved first place after winning all of his four fights.

Category five was for the older juniors and was a very demanding category. Both Barry Kyokushin and Rising Sun had a handful of strong fighters.

It was Barry Kyokushin's Luke Murphy who took home third place, using his speed and power to take the lead over the much bigger boys in the category.

Second place went to Rising Sun's Akash Benny after three strong fights. But it was Rising Sun's George Cox who took home first place, a much-deserved win for a strong fighter.

Senpai Phill said: "This is a great step forward for Barry Kyokushin and a great occasion to have this tournament building bridges with Senpai Spencer and Rising Sun."

"The day went without a hitch, it was planned carefully over a few months and the attention to detail was key to this."

"The performance from fighters of both clubs were outstanding."

Barry Kyokushin Karate club train out of Castleland Community Centre. Students are taken from the age of six for further info check out www.bkkc.co.uk or call 01446 408974, or find us on facebook.

East Glamorgan Chess League nears its climax

AN exciting match on Monday was deserving of its importance in deciding the destiny of the East Glamorgan League Title.

First place played third place as Barry Bosons hosted the Cardiff Bishops at the West End Club.

Steve Cunliffe's game finished first, even though there were only knights and pawns left on the board – but Steve made a draw offer as he probably stood worse.

His opponent turned it down at first but offered a draw himself a few moves later. Bill Hewitt dropped a pawn early on against Alex Bullen and did extremely well to battle to a draw.

On board 3, Craig Woolcock was rightly very pleased with his win which was gained in his now familiar attacking style.

The team captain won a pawn in a sharp position but with queens zooming around the board, missed a winning move and allowed his opponent to draw with perpetual check.

Rhys Steele on board 5 was last to finish in a mutual time scramble with the whole room crowded around to watch the excitement.

Rhys was a piece up with pawns on the board but had only seconds left and kept turning down his opponent's draw offers.

At the end Rhys had only one second left to finish the game whilst his opponent still had 3 seconds to play his moves.

After an astonishing blur of hands, brains and chess pieces the smoke cleared to show that both clocks stood on zero time.

Years ago that would have been called a draw but today's technology showed that the Cardiff player's flag had fallen first and that was enough for Rhys to be awarded the win – Rhys had played more moves in one second than his opponent could in three!

The result confirms that Cardiff Bishops are out of the running for the league title but the extra half point Rhys gained may be crucial to the Bosons' cause.

Tournament favourites and perennial winners Cardiff Castles have one match left to play but trail Barry Bosons by 2 points.

The Bosons have only one game left to play. A victory for the Bosons in their final game and picking up 3.5 of the points on offer will secure the title regardless of the score in the Cardiff Castles' final game – it could hardly be tighter as Barry bid for their first title since 2001.

On Sunday, Cardiff brought their strongest team to Bridgend to play the Vale chess team in the Welsh Premier League.

Cardiff ran away with the match 5-1 with only Steve Cunliffe and Rhys Steele preventing a whitewash.

However, the Vale's early season form keeps them in with a chance of being crowned Welsh Champions.

They will go into the last match of the season in May knowing that a 4-2 win over Nidum will guarantee qualification to the European Championships in Bilbao and then if Cardiff fail to beat Llanelli, the biggest prize in Welsh team chess will be on display at Barry and Penarth chess clubs.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>

Phil Jones

West End skittles tournament

The Barry West End Club will be holding an eight-a-side skittle tournament this summer, £1,000 for the winners, £500, £250, £200 respectively for the runners up and various individual prizes.

All you need is eight players to register, with six to play! Just £2 'per person' collect your application form from behind the bar.

Entries must be in no later than the April 30.

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NEWS FROM SEAVIEW LADS ANGLING CLUB

THE warmer weather is making angling more pleasant and more fish are coming in as well.

The latest doubles competition had 20 anglers fish, and over 100lb weighed in. Dogs are coming in numbers and rays will surely follow.

Nice to see some of the old timers in the mix, along with a few newbies. Even el Presidente has gotten in on the act!

The mystery trip is being keenly anticipated and by the time this goes to press will have been held.

The social calendar is filling up, so if any members haven't yet put their names down for a trip or two then make sure you do soon!

March 23: 1st, D Crump 9lb 0oz; 2nd, K Salah 7lb 4oz; 3rd, P Coles 5lb 8oz; 4th, J Bray 5lb 2oz; 5th, S Doble 4lb 3oz; 6th, A Peterson 3lb 9oz.

March 26: 1st, R Lougher 5lb 3oz; 2nd, A Saif 1lb 15oz; 3rd, D Crump 1lb 10oz; 4th, S Doble 0lb 10oz.

April 6: 1st, P Crook 20 lb 14 oz; 2nd, S Doble 11 lb 14 oz; 3rd, R Lougher 11 lb 13 oz; 4th, J Bray 11 lb 9 oz; 5th, D Crump 7 lb 2 oz; 6th, K Salah 5 lb 2 oz.

JC

Tim's terrific treble delights the punters

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan had plenty to smile about last Thursday after he landed a terrific treble with *Lamool*, *Stonethrower* and *Liberty Court*.

The first two scored at Ludlow at odds of 10-1 and 16-1 respectively and the third, a well backed 5-4 favourite, won at Taunton.

Lamool, ridden by Michael Byrne, won by one and a quarter lengths from *Speedmaster*, and *Stonethrower*, partnered by Alan Johns, scored by three and a quarter lengths from the favourite *Divine Intention*.

Liberty Court was partnered by top jockey Richard Johnson and won by eight lengths from *Badger Wood*.

Lancarfan's Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ludlow, saddled his course and distance winner *Hold Court* to take the closing handicap hurdle.

Hold Court, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, went off the 3-1 joint-favourite and got home by a neck from *Speedy Tunes*.

Brian Lee

First game of year for Cowbridge bowlers

COWBRIDGE men bowlers started their outdoor season with a friendly match in the valleys at Gelligaled.

The weather wasn't kind, very cold, but it was a most enjoyable friendly game which we lost by three shots, 64-67.

Skip Brian Kent's rink

managed a good draw of 20-20, and with Brian was Mansel Davey (back playing after his two knees' operation), Rob Lewis and Brian Williams.

The other three rinks each lost by only one shot. Captain Norman Wilkinson's rink, with Gerwyn Watkins, Bryan Hole and Ron Frayling lost 12-13.

On skip Steve Dickens' rink, with Guy Morton, John Collin and Clive Pritchard, they lost 16-17.

Skip Roger Barwick's rink also lost 16-17. With Roger was Danny Powell, Len Taylor and Colin Wilson.

The next match is a mixed friendly at Penarth on Wednesday afternoon.

NJW



Turn to page 30 for Brian Lee's report, and photos by Glyn Evans from last week's Point to Point.

Village of Ystradowen reforms football team

THE village of Ystradowen is aiming to revive an old tradition by reforming its football club.

Club members have registered to join the local football league next season in the under-16 section.

Club spokesman Steve Day said: "We have researched the club's history, but have only discovered a limited amount of information so far."

"The re-formed club has registered with the Football Association Of

Wales and will play in the village's traditional colours of black and white.

"We are appealing to older locals who may have more memory to the club's history and traditions, and would be delighted to hear from anyone with memories of the village club."

"We would also like to invite any interested

players and parents to make contact. While the under-16 team will be formed in preparation for next season, other age groups and parents are welcome to come forward to put teams together at other age groups."

For more information, email Steve Day on steve.day180966@aol.com

Under-10s enjoy their tournament experience

COWBRIDGE under-10s set off on Saturday, April 12, for a West Midlands tour that would also take in the Lexus National Finals at Sixways Stadium, Worcester, on the Sunday.

The first game was at Old Silhillians RFC in Solihull, and was played over five 10-minute periods.

Rhys Ford was quick out of the blocks, scoring a rapid hat-trick of tries. The home side responded with two tries in the second period but Rhys, Archie Lloyd and a brace from Steffan Evans extended Cowbridge's lead.

An evenly-matched third quarter saw Finlay Sullivan score a brace of tries and Alfie Rees also cross in response to the home side's three tries.

An Ollie Jones try, and another Rhys Ford hat-trick in the fourth quarter was again matched by the home side.

The final quarter saw Cowbridge finish strongly as Will Ryan, Finlay Brace, Sebastian Johns-Powell and Steffan Evans all crossed the whitewash to enable Cowbridge to emerge winners by 18 tries to 10.

The tour party retreated to the warmth of the clubhouse to enjoy some hospitality before getting back on the bus for a short trip

to the Village Hotel, Solihull where the squad enjoyed some swimming pool fun.

The coaches did note that the staying on the 'float' game appeared to generate more aggression than any breakdown all season!

After a hearty breakfast on Sunday it was back on the bus to head for the impressive tournament venue.

Cowbridge, having won the regional tournament to qualify for the finals in November, were up against some very useful sides with far greater resources.

First up was Tonbridge Juddians from Kent and a Ruben Davies opening try put Cowbridge in front to give the only Welsh representation in the tournament hope, but this lead was cancelled out just shortly before half time.

Despite battling well in the second half, Cowbridge were unable to prevent the Kent side adding a further try to win by 10-5.

Cowbridge's second game was against eventual winners Old Albanians from Hertfordshire, who had demolished their opening opponents.

Cowbridge closed down well and tackled impressively but despite this, terrific handling and ball retention from the Old Albanians created two very good tries in the first half.

Cowbridge scored a

superb second half try as fly half Harry Treharne took the ball up to the defence line and popped a pass to centre Ruben Davies, who sprinted clear.

No further scores occurred but a 10-5 loss was great credit against a side that would demolish more sides in the tournament, and the knowledge that Cowbridge had prevented any tries against them in the second half was a huge plus.

The third game was against Hull Ionians and Cowbridge produced a great display. They forged ahead with tries from Harry Treharne and a brace from the balanced running of Ruben Davies to one from Hull. Second half tries from Ruben Davies and Finlay Brace ensure a bonus point 25-5 victory for Cowbridge.

The next opponents were Waterloo RFC from Lancashire, who built up a 10-0 half time lead thanks to two well-worked tries.

However, Cowbridge were not prepared to lie down and two long range efforts from Ruben Davies brought the scores level for a nail biting finish. Despite the efforts of both sides neither could find a winning score and the match ended 10-10.

Cowbridge's last opponents were Northern Rugby from Newcastle. The long day began to take its

toll and for the first time, too many tackles were missed and a disastrous first half saw Cowbridge concede five tries with a Ruben Davies try the only comfort.

To Cowbridge's credit they never gave up and scored two unanswered tries in the second half from Harry Treharne and Tom Brennan to lose 25-15.

This was a wonderful experience for the boys to play at a big stadium and use training facilities like 'the Barn'.

They represented Cowbridge, Wales and themselves with enormous credit and it was a huge achievement to get to the finals, where the rugby on show was of a very high order.

All involved in the under-10s would like to thank Dawn and Gareth Prichard for organising the tour so well. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was a great success.

Tour squad: Ruben Davies, Harry Treharne, Tom Brennan, Alfie Rees, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Akka Guwy, Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Rhys Ford, Lewys Robins, Rhydian Williams, Finlay Sullivan, Robbie Brown, Rhys Prichard, Archie Lloyd, Luke Treadwell, Finlay Brace, Ifor Rees, Ollie Jones and Will Ryan.

MF

AUSSIE TEAM OUTCLASSED BY COWBRIDGE

COWBRIDGE under-15s had a busy weekend of rugby, starting with a match on Friday, April 11, with a touring Australian side.

Cowbridge entertained Brighton Grammar School, Melbourne, on Friday evening and outclassed a brave but inexperienced team by 10 tries to two.

The Australians, on a two week tour of Ireland, England and Wales, were unable to match the speed and power of the home side, who for the first time this season were bigger than their opponents.

Tries from captain James Holder (four), Sam Palmer (two), Ben Terry, Joe Nott, Dan Bunney and Tom Edwards. Seven were converted by Rhys Beynon.

Rhymney under-15s tournament, April 13.

Cowbridge competed in the annual end of season tournament at Rhymney and finished as runners up, winning three of their four matches and losing the other to the host club.

Cowbridge 31 v Rhwibina 0. Tries by Dan Bunney (two), Rhys Beynon, Kyle May-Rees and Seán Davies, conversions Cai Evans (three).

Cowbridge 31 v Llandaff North 7. Tries by Josh Evans, Cai Evans, Seán Davies, Joe Nott and Cai Irwin, conversions Cai Evans (three).

Cowbridge 26 v Llanishen 12. Tries by Dan Bunney (two), Seán Davies and Josh Evans, conversions Cai Evans (three).

Cowbridge 0 v Rhymney 24.

ML

Vale venue for historic rugby match!

IN 1944, the Dutch city of 's-Hertogenbosch was liberated by the 53rd Welsh division, and since then a strong link between Wales and 's-Hertogenbosch has existed.

The 70th anniversary of the liberation will be marked this year by a number of events. This will begin with a rugby match between the newly-formed Army Reserve Rugby Club, whose members are drawn from reserve units all over Wales, and a visiting team from 's-Hertogenbosch on Saturday, April 19 at the Cowbridge Rugby Club ground, kick-off 2pm.

Warrant Officer Geordie Fernandez of the Royal Army Physical Training Corp, said: "As reservists our players tend to be busy at weekends, so balancing a rugby commitment can be difficult."

"It's a tribute to the guys that since January, we now have a team up and running, we have played two games, won one and lost the other, and now we are facing a visiting side from Holland."

"It will be a fantastic opportunity for our lads to play a travelling team, I am sure that the lads would appreciate all the support they can get."

This is a significant year in the commemoration of the liberation of their city by the people of 's-Hertogenbosch. The rugby match is just the opener in a series of events culminating in Armed Forces Day Wales on Saturday, June 28 in Cardiff, where the city will be represented by the Mayor of 's-Hertogenbosch, a 100-strong choir and an 80-strong marching band, plus a group of cyclists who will have cycled from 's-Hertogenbosch to Wales carrying with them a Davy lamp that will have been lit from the memorial flame at the British war cemetery and presented to the people of Wales, as part of the Armed Forces Day celebrations.

The choir and band will perform in the week prior to Armed Forces Day at locations in Cardiff, Pontypridd and Swansea, and then will take centre stage at the main event on Coopers Field behind Cardiff Castle.

DM